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XII.—DE ORTU WALUUANII: AN ARTHURIAN ROMANCE NOW FIRST EDITED FROM THE COTTONIAN MS. FAUSTINA B. VI., OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

I.

INTRODUCTION.

The following edition of the *De Ortu Waluuanii* is based on an exact transcript of the Cottonian MS. (only with resolution of the usual contractions) which was made for me by Mr. D. T. B. Wood, of the Department of Manuscripts of the British Museum, during the months of August and September, 1897. I have endeavored to print the Latin text as it appears in this transcript with as little change as possible. It has occasionally been necessary, however, to supply words omitted in the MS., yet obviously required by the sense, and wherever this has been done the inserted words will be found enclosed in brackets.¹ In the case of corrupt or simply misspelt forms I have placed the MS. readings at the bottom of the page and incorporated the emended forms (italicized) into the text. Only in the case of the words *sublimis* and *pugna* and their derivatives I have retained the consistent spellings of the MS.—*sullimis*, *pungna*, and the like.

I trust that the real interest of its incidents, not less than their rather singular character, which seems to have struck both Sir Frederic Madden and M. Gaston Paris, will justify the publication of the following romance. Save in the concluding episodes, perhaps, it suffers from a want of vital connection with the great body of Arthurian tradition; but this drawback is partly offset by its freedom from the accumulation of *banal* adventures and the consequent prolixity which

¹ The same means has been adopted for indicating letters and syllables which are omitted in the MS.

is the bane of the Arthurian romances. The writer, despite his barbarous style, has, on the whole, shown no little judgment in the selection of his materials.

In the beginning it had been my purpose to offer a literal translation of the Latin text. It soon became evident, however, that the reproduction in English of every rhetorical extravagance of the original would seriously detract from the interest of the story, and I have accordingly contented myself with a paraphrase which nevertheless adheres closely to the sense of the Latin text. The only part of the original not represented at all in the paraphrase is that which contains the burlesque description of the mode of preparing Greek fire. This I have omitted as having no essential connection with the story.

II.

SOURCES.

The Latin romance, *De Ortu Waluuanii*, which now appears for the first time in printed form, has not entirely escaped the notice of students of Arthurian legend, but the meagre abstracts of Madden and Ward, through which alone a knowledge of the story has been hitherto possible to those who did not have access to the Cottonian ms.,¹ give a very inadequate idea of its contents, as will be recognized, I believe, on reading the full text as published below. Accordingly, apart from the writers just referred to, I have noted amidst all the formidable mass of Arthurian literature only one passage dealing with the *De Ortu Waluuanii*—namely, in the treatise on the Round Table Romances² by M. Gaston Paris, whose comprehensive studies, as will be seen, have contributed something to lighten up the question of the sources of this romance, as of so many other forms of the *matière de Bretagne*.

¹ The Cottonian ms. is believed to be unique. For a description of this ms. see Ward's *Catalogue of Romances in the Department of Manuscripts in the British Museum*. London, 1883-93; Vol. I, p. 374.

² *Histoire Littéraire de la France*, xxx, p. 31, note.

The earliest mention of the *De Ortu Waluuanii* of which I am aware occurs in the Introduction (p. x, note) to Sir Frederic Madden's well-known edition¹ of the English romances relating to Gawain, published for the Bannatyne Club in 1839, where it is referred to as one of "five Latin romances still existing in manuscript." Still further on in the same Introduction (pp. xxxiii f.) we have a more extended notice of the romance, made up, however, for the most part, of an abstract of the story. This abstract, though brief, is fuller than that which was subsequently published in Ward's *Catalogue*. As I shall have occasion later on to refer to this second passage in Madden's Introduction, I will give it here in full with the exception of the abstract now rendered unnecessary by the publication of the text. His words are as follows:

"One more romantic composition relative to Gawayne remains to be noticed, which is the more remarkable from its being quite distinct from the established fictions of the Round Table. This composition may be assigned to the early part of the fourteenth century and is written in *Latin*; but whether derived "from floating Celtic traditions" or from an Anglo-Norman original, must be left to conjecture. It is entitled *De Ortu Waluuanii, nepotis Arturi* and is a strange tissue of romantic fiction, embellished with many rhetorical flourishes. . . . Such is the brief outline of this singular story in which we can clearly trace some few particulars referable to Geoffrey of Monmouth, but worked up in a manner that would bear comparison with the extravagant fictions of a much later era."

The notice in Ward's *Catalogue*, I, 375 f., consists simply of a very meagre abstract of the story with a transcription of the opening and concluding sentences and a reference to the passages in Sir Frederic Madden's Introduction.

¹ *Syr Gawayne: A Collection of Ancient Romance-Poems by Scottish and English Authors Relating to that Celebrated Knight of the Round Table, etc.*, by Sir Frederic Madden. London, 1839.

Finally the note in M. Gaston Paris's above-mentioned treatise (p. 31) contains besides a brief outline of the story based on Madden and Ward, to whom he refers, the following statements with regard to this "singulière composition latine:" "Ce roman paraît une simple amplification des données de Gaufrei de Monmouth; il repose sans doute sur un original français: on en retrouve les traits principaux dans le roman en prose de Perceval ou Perlesvaus (pp. 252, 253) et dans une rédaction encore inédite du Merlin en prose, conservée dans le manuscrit français 337."

This note of M. Paris is valuable as offering definite indications of the relation of the Latin romance to other forms of Arthurian legend, but there is an evident *lapsus calami* in its last clause and the view expressed in the first—to say nothing for the moment of the rest—will, I believe, be seriously modified after a perusal of the text as given in full. The MS. 337 of the *Fonds français* of the Bibliothèque Nationale, as is well-known, contains not a *Merlin* but a *Livre d'Artus*, an analysis of which by E. Freymond has appeared in the *Zeitschrift für französische Sprache und Literatur*, XVII, 21 ff. I presume, however, that M. Paris had in mind the story concerning the infancy of Mordrec which is found in the Huth *Merlin*,¹ I, 204 ff., and which evidently stands in some relation, more or less close, to the similar story with which our romance opens. If this correction is made, the above note may be accepted as furnishing us with an indication of two undoubted parallels to the story of the birth of Gawain in the Latin romance. Considering the great variety of adventure and incident which the romance as a whole exhibits, it is perhaps too much to say that in these parallel stories are found again "the principal features" of the *De Ortu Walu-*

¹ *Merlin, Roman en Prose du XIII^e siècle* Edited for the Société des Anciens Textes Français, by G. Paris and J. Ulrich. 2 vols. Paris, MDCCCLXXXVI.

In Malory's *Morte Darthur* (Book I, Chap. 27) there is a story concerning Mordred's birth similar to that in the Huth *Merlin*.

uanii, but they certainly contain some of its most interesting features. In order to determine the nature of the relation of these kindred stories to the portion of our romance which narrates the circumstances of the birth of its hero, and, furthermore, to fix, if possible, the source from which all these versions ultimately derive, I shall present in full the passage concerned in the *Perlesvaus*, adding an abstract only of the longer and less important passage in the Huth *Merlin*. The passage in the *Perlesvaus*¹ reads as follows :

“De Perceval se test ici li contes et dist que li rois Artus et misires Gauvains ont pris congié à Perceval et à touz ceus del chastel. Li rois li lest le bon destrier que il consuit avec la corone d’or. Il ont tant chevauchié, antre lui et monseingnor Gauvain, qu’il sont venu an I gaste chastel ancian qui séoit an une forest. Li chastiax fust moult biaux et moult riches s’il fust hantez de janx ; mès il n’i avoit c’un provère ancian et son clerc qui vivoi[en]t là dedanz de lor labor. Li rois et misires Gauvains i herbergièrent la nuit, et l’andemain entrèrent en une moult riche chapele qui là dedanz estoit, pour oïr la messe, et estoit pointe environ de moult riche color d’or et d’azur et d’autres colors. Les images estoient moult beles, qui pointes i estoient et les figures de céus por qui les figures furent festes. Li rois et misires Gauvains les esgardèrent volentiers.” Quant la messe fu dite, li prestres vint à eus et lor dist : “Seingnor, fet-il, ces escritures sont moult beles et cil qui fère les fist est moult loiax et si ama moult la dame et son fill pour qui il le fist fère. Sire, fet li prestres, ce est unes estoires vraies”—“De qui est li estoires, biax Sires ?” fait li rois Artus. “D’un prodome vavasor qui cist recez fu, et de monseingnor Gauvain le neveu le roi Artus et de sa mère—“Sire,” fait li prestres, “misires Gauvains fu çà dedanz nez et levez et bautissiez, einsint come vos le povez là veoir escrit : et ot non Gauvain

¹ *Perceval le Gallois ou le Conte du Graal publié d’après les manuscrits originaux par Ch. Potvin—Première Partie : Le Roman en Prose.* Mons. MDCCCLXVI, pp. 252 f.

pour le seingnor de cest chastel qui tel non avoit. Sa mère, qui l'ot del roi Loth, ne vost mie qu'il fust séu ; ele le mist en I moult bel vessel, si pria au prodome de çà dedanz qu'il le portast là où il fust périz, et, se il ce ne feissoit, ele le feroit fère à autrui. Icil Gauvains, qui loiax estoit et ne vost mie que cil anfes fust périz, fist sééler à son chevez qu'il estoit del réal lignage d'une part et d'autre, et si mist or et argent pour l'anfant norir à grant plenté, et coucha desour l'enfant une moult riche pane. Il l'enporta an I moult lointeingne païs ; puis, vint à un ajornant, an I petit pleisseiz où il avoit I moult prodome manant ; il le bailla à lui [et] à sa moillier et lor dist qu'il le gardassent et norissent bien, qu'il lor en poroit venir granz biens. Li vavasors s'en retourne arières et cil gardèrent l'anfant et le norirent tant que il fust grant ; puis le menèrent à Rome à l'apostele, si li mostrèrent les lestres séélées. Li aposteles les vit et sot que il estoit fiuz le roi. Il an ot pitié, si le fist garder et li fist antendre qu'il estoit de son lignage ; puis, fu esléuz à estre anperière de Rome. Il ne le voloit estre, por ce que l'an ne le reproschast sa nissance que l'an li avoit célée avant. Il s'an parti, et puis fu il çà dedanz. Or dist l'an qu'il est uns des meillors chevaliers del monde, si n'osse nus cest chastel séoir, pour la doutance de lui, ne ceste grant forest qui ci est environ. Quar, quant li vavasors fu morz de çà dedanz, si leissa à monseingnor Gauvain, son filleull, cest chastel, et moi an fist garde tresqu'à cele hore que il revandroit." Li rois regarde monseingnor Gauvain, et le vit bronchir vers terre de vergongne : "Biax niès, ne soïiez pas honteus, quar autretel me povez reprochier ; ce fu grant joie de vostre nissance, et moult doit l'an aimer le leu et anorrer, où si bons chevaliers come vos estes naqui." Quant li prestres entendit que c'estoit misires Gauvains, si an fêit moult grant joie et an est touz honteus de ce qu'il li a einsint recordée sa nissance. Mès il li dist : "Sire, moult n'an devez avoir blame, quar vos fustes confermez en la loi que Dex a establie et an loiauté de mariage del roi Loth et de vostre mère. Iceste chose set

bien li rois Artus et Damedex estoit aourez quant vos estes çà dedanz venuz."

The story of the Huth *Merlin*, which has been referred to above, runs as follows: In consequence of a prophecy of Merlin's that at a certain time a child would be born who was destined to be the cause of the destruction of the kingdom of Logres, King Arthur commands that all the children born in his realm about this time should be sent to him as soon as possible after their birth, to be shut up in his towers, so that he might take measures to prevent the fulfilment of the fatal prophecy, the parents, however, not being aware of his design. When Mordrec is born, his presumptive father, King Loth, in obedience to Arthur's command, has his son put in a cradle and conveyed to a ship with a great escort of ladies and knights who are to accompany him to King Arthur's court. On the way, however, the vessel suffered shipwreck and all on board perished, except the child, who is borne in his cradle safely to shore by the sea. A fisherman who is out fishing in a little boat discovers the child and carries him home. He infers from his rich apparel that he is of noble extraction, and with his wife's approval decides to take him to his lord, the father of Sagremor *li Derreës*. This lord receives him and has him brought up with his son, calling him Mordrec, since it appeared from a paper found in his cradle that such was his name. King Arthur, soon after imagining that he had got all the children in his power, is about to slay them, but in consequence of a vision decides, instead, to have them put in a ship, which was to be set adrift without crew or pilot. This is done, but the children, to the number of seven hundred and twelve, are miraculously preserved and safely borne ashore, near a castle called Amalvi, in the land of King Oriant.

The rest of the story does not concern us here and need not be recounted.

The changes which have taken place in the case of this last story are certainly considerable, yet I believe that its

connection with the account of Gawain's birth given in the *Perlesvaus* and our Latin romance will be generally conceded. I should say that the original story as applied to Gawain had been here transferred to his brother, Mordrec—a relationship important to recollect when arguing for the identity of the stories—only the new circumstances into which the story had to be fitted naturally necessitated the abandonment of the old motive for the sending forth of the child. Moreover, as in the new application of the story there was no occasion for surrounding the voyage of the royal infant with secrecy, he is furnished with a company befitting his birth. On the other hand, to save the essential features of the original legend, the interest of which had led to its incorporation into the Huth *Merlin*, it was necessary to get rid of this company before the end of the voyage, and the author resorts to the natural and summary method of shipwreck. The version of the Huth *Merlin*, however, in so far as it relates to Mordrec, has this in common with the *Perlesvaus* and the Latin romance as against the more primitive and perhaps more famous stories of a hero committed in his infancy to the sea, that by a rationalizing alteration in the form of the legend the child makes his voyage in the charge of some person or persons, and is not sent forth alone in a boat without crew or pilot, or otherwise. Furthermore, it has in common with the Latin romance that the person who discovers the child, after it has reached the land, is a fisherman. This feature, natural as it may seem, is by no means universal in legends of a similar character.

Having justified, as I hope, my assumption that there is a connection between the story of Mordrec in the Huth *Merlin* and that which is related concerning Gawain's birth in the *Perlesvaus* and *De Ortu Waluuanii*, the task of fixing more nearly the mutual relations of the three versions and their respective claims to originality will be best furthered, I think, by giving at once the legend from which, in my opinion, they are all derived—or rather those features of it with which we

are here concerned. I refer to the legend of Pope Gregory, which in some such form as that in which it appears in the *Gesta Romanorum* must, I think, to say the least, have been present to the mind of the first writer who connected this story with an Arthurian hero.¹ The legend of Gregory in the *Gesta Romanorum* is entitled *De mirabili divina dispensatione et ortu beati Gregorii pape*. It is found in Oesterley's edition (Berlin, 1872), pp. 399 f., and the following are the portions of the legend which seem to me to constitute the source of the story common to the *Perlesvaus* and the *De Ortu Waluuanii*, and which appears in the Huth *Merlin* in so materially altered a form.

As soon as Gregory is born his mother prepares to have him set adrift on the sea, and writes out the circumstances of her son's birth on tablets which she places in the cradle with him. The legend reads (pp. 401 ff.):

"Cum omnia ista erant scripta, tabellas in cunabulo sub latere² pueri ponebat, aurum sub capite, argentum ad pedes; deinde cum pannis sericis ac deauratis cunabulum cooperuit. Hoc facto militi precepit, ut cunabulum infra dolium poneret et in mari projiceret, ut nataret ubicumque deus disponeret. Miles vero omnia adimplevit. Cum dolium projectum in mari fuisset, miles tamdiu juxta mare stetit, quamdiu dolium natare videret; hoc facto ad dominam rediit. . . . Dolium cum puero per multa regna transiit, quousque juxta cenobium monachorum pervenit et hoc feria sexta. Eodem die abbas illius monasterii ad litus maris perrexit et piscatoribus suis ait: Carissimi estote parati ad piscandum! Illi vero rethia sua

¹The actual compilation of the *Gesta Romanorum* is probably later than the *Perlesvaus* or *De Ortu Waluuanii*. The legend of Gregory, however, was, of course, in existence long before this—at least as early as the middle of the twelfth century. See Gröber's *Grundriss der Romanischen Philologie*, II, 479.

²In the Old French version, *Vie du Pape Grégoire le Grand*, edited by Luzarche (Tours, 1857), they were placed, it seems, by his head, as it was there that they were subsequently found (p. 37). So in the story of Gawain's birth in the *Perlesvaus*.

parabant ; dum vero prepararent, dolium cum fluctibus maris ad terram pervenit. Ait abbas servis suis : Ecce dolium ! aperiatis et videatis quid ibi lateat ! Illi vero dolium aperuerunt et ecce puer parvus pannis preciosis involutus abbatem respexit et risit, abbas vero totaliter de visu contristratus ait : O deus meus, quid est hoc, quod invenimus puerum in cunabulo ? Propriis manibus eum levavit, tabellas sub latere ejus invenit, quas mater ibidem posuit ; aperuit et legit. . . . Abbas cum hec legisset et cunabulum pannis preciosis ornatum vidisset, intellexit quod puer de nobili sanguine esset, statim eum baptizari fecit et ei proprium nomen imposuit,¹ scilicet Gregorius .et puerum ad nutriendum uni piscatori tradidit, dans ei pondus quod invenit ; puer vero crescebat et ab omnibus dilectus quousque septem annos in etatem complevisset."

Gregory, like Gawain, becomes in the course of time an excellent warrior. He has many strange and terrible experiences before he is called to the apostolic throne, but these do not concern us here.

Comparing the above with the story of Gawain's birth in the *Perlesvaus* and the Latin romance, it seems evident that the latter offer simply a slightly rationalized form of the legend concerning the birth of Gregory applied to the Arthurian knight,² standing in this respect in the same relation to that legend as the similar story of Perdita's infancy in *The Winter's Tale* to its acknowledged prototype in Greene's *Historie of Dorastus and Fawnia*.³ In Greene's novel, too,

¹ Cp. the *Vie du Pape Grégoire*, p. 40:

*E son non li a enposé,
Gregoire apeleent l'abé,
E s'il fu Gregoire apelé.*

² The Gregory legend seems to have been used also in the romance which M. Gaston Paris calls the *Chevalier à la Manche*. Cp. *Hist. Lit. de la France*, xxx, pp. 122 f. The *Trental of St. Gregory* has been exploited for the Middle English romance, *The Awntyrs of Arthure at the Terne Wathelyne*. Cf. Madden's *Syr Gawayne*, pp. 238 f.

³ See Greene's *Works* (ed. Grosart), Vol. iv, especially pp. 253-254, 264-270 (*Huth Library*, 1881-83).

the child is set adrift in a boat without sail or rudder, but it is under Antigonus's charge that Perdita is taken over seas to the "deserts of Bohemia" (*Winter's Tale*, Act III, Sc. 3). Certain slight correspondences especially seem to fix the dependence of the story of Gawain's birth on the legend of Gregory—namely, the fact that in the *Perlesvaus* as in this legend the guardian gives his name to the hero, and, again, that in the Latin romance, just as in the Gregory legend, the person who brings him up is a fisherman. It is to be noted, moreover, that neither in the *Perlesvaus* nor in the Gregory legend is the guardian who gives his name to the child the person who actually rears him.

Accepting the derivation, then, of the story of the birth of Gawain from the legend of Pope Gregory, it will be found on the whole, I think, that the version of the Latin romance stands decidedly closest to the original. The account of the discovery of the child by the sea-shore and of his subsequent bringing up by the fisherman is essentially the same in this version as in the legend, whilst it has practically disappeared from the version of the *Perlesvaus*. On the other hand the *Perlesvaus* retains certain distinctive features enumerated above which do not appear in the *De Ortu Waluuanii*. I refer to the naming of the hero after the person who takes charge of him, and the additional feature that the guardian and the person who brings up the child are not identical. At the same time, the very fact that the *Perlesvaus* version retains these distinctive features of the original story, which do not appear in the Latin romance, makes it evident that it is not dependent on the latter. It only remains to inquire then whether each of the versions was independently derived directly from the Gregory legend or from some intermediate source, itself deriving from that legend. The answer to this question must surely be in favor of the latter assumption. It is incredible that quite independently of one another the author of this romance and the author of the *Perlesvaus* should have each conceived the idea of exploiting the legend

of Gregory for the history of Gawain, and attaching it to the narrative of Gawain's sojourn at Rome which is developed from the passage in Geoffrey of Monmouth (Book IX, Chap. xi). This being the case, and the two versions yet being entirely independent of one another, it is necessary to assume a common source for both—doubtless French. There is nothing surprising in this, as, indeed, we shall see that still other portions of the *De Ortu Waluuanii* were in all probability also worked up from French materials.

It was from this same source, no doubt, that the version of the Huth *Merlin* was likewise derived. The story in that romance agrees more closely with the *De Ortu Waluuanii* than with the *Perlesvaus*, retaining the original feature of the discovery of the child by the fisherman, though, of course, differing from it very much in detail. In view of the serious changes which, under any supposition, the form of the story has undergone in this version, it would be impossible to say whether the author had used the *De Ortu Waluuanii* or its source. As it is in the highest degree unlikely, however, that the author of the Huth *Merlin* should have had knowledge of this obscure Latin romance, and as no use of the romance is observable elsewhere in his work, we may safely assume, I think, that he derived his story of Mordrec's birth from the same source ultimately as the *De Ortu Waluuanii*, and not from that work directly.¹

¹In one respect the application of the legend of Gregory to Mordrec seems more natural than its application to Gawain: Gregory and Mordrec, I mean, were each the offspring of an incestuous union. It is evident, however, that the version of the Huth *Merlin* is very inferior to the versions which connect the legend with Gawain, and the motive of secrecy which is essential to the story and appropriate to the account of Gawain's birth could have had no place in a similar story concerning Mordrec, inasmuch as Loth is nowhere represented as being conscious of his real relation to the latter.

I had written this note as well as the whole of the discussion in the text when I noticed the suggestion of M. G. Paris in the edition of the Huth *Merlin* (p. xli, note 3) that the introduction of the story of Mordred's incestuous birth into the Arthurian romances was due, perhaps, in part to

The union, then, of certain features of the Gregory legend with the story of Gawain's connection with Rome and Pope Sulpicius, which was supplied by Geoffrey of Monmouth (Book IX, Chap. XI), will account for everything that is essential in the Latin romance up to the point in the narrative where the news of the war between the Persians and the Christians of Jerusalem is brought to the emperor's court. The fusion of these materials called for some exercise of invention, of course, on the part of the writer who first, united them—a demand which has been creditably met—but the essentials of the story are supplied by the sources. The whole of these materials which, as will be observed, have nothing to do with the French metrical or prose Arthurian romances are given a tinge of the coloring of these latter works by making the young knight, like many other Arthurian heroes, pass in the world under a nickname simply,¹ himself even being ignorant of his real name, and still further by introducing the Arthurian commonplace of a *don* by which the emperor binds himself to grant the youthful hero the privilege of undertaking the next adventure which presents itself.²

the influence of the Gregory legend. The influence of that legend on the stories I have been discussing has, of course, nothing to do with the question which M. Paris endeavors to elucidate in his note, as, indeed, it is a different and less essential feature of the Gregory legend with which I have been concerned.

¹ So Lancelot du Lac in the prose-romance passes at first under various nicknames simply (see P. Paris, *Romans de la Table Ronde*, III, 27, *et passim*). He only learns his true name in the cemetery of the Douloureuse Garde (*Ibid.*, pp. 165 f.). Cp. also the French and English romances on Guinglain, the son of Gawain, who is known as Li Beaus Desconneus (*Le Bel Inconnu*, ed. Hippeau, Paris, 1860) or Libeaus Desconus (ed. Kaluza, Leipzig, 1890), just in the same way that his father here figures as *Puer sine nomine*. The nickname, *Miles cum tunica armaturae*, may be compared with *Le Chevalier à la cotte mal taillé* (see Löseth's *Le Roman en Prose de Tristan*, Paris, 1891, p. 71, *et passim*), which has passed into Malory (Book IX, Chap. 1).

² This feature is, perhaps, too frequent to call for illustration. An example exactly parallel to that in our text will be found in the *Libeaus Desconus* (ed. Kaluza), p. 9.

The story of Gawain's birth and of his residence in Rome is the only part of the *De Ortu Waluuanii*, as far as I know, for which definite connections can be established with passages in the Arthurian romances that have come down to us. It can hardly be open to doubt, however, I think, that the whole of the concluding portion of the Latin romance which embraces the account of Gawain's night-encounter with King Arthur, his arrival at the latter's court¹ and the adventure of the *Castellum Puellarum* must have been taken with little alteration from some French romance—probably metrical—no longer extant.

In the first place, to say nothing of the general character of the incidents, the manner in which the story is told and the recurrence in it of some of the most distinctive commonplaces of the French Arthurian romances, along with still other features to be noticed, lend strong probability to the theory of its derivation from some one of the many specimens of works of that class which must have been lost. It is hardly likely that a writer whose preferred vehicle of expression was Latin could have reproduced so perfectly the habitual character of those works, if he had not followed some romance in the vernacular. These concluding episodes, indeed, seem to me to represent a more purely popular tradition than any other parts of the Latin romance.

The commonplaces referred to here especially are :

1. The introduction of Kay, the seneschal—who is not more fortunate in his encounter in this episode than in the Arthurian romances generally—and of Gringalet, the famous steed of Gawain, for it is evidently to him that the words refer: "Sonipedi residet cui uigore, ualore decoreue alter equiparari non poterit (p. 424)."

2. The combat at the ford. Such combats between knights at a ford may be numbered among the commonplaces of the

¹In the description of Caerleon and its surroundings the author had in mind Geoffrey's *Historia* (Book IX, Chap. XII), where this city is also described.

Arthurian romances. We have again in the prose *Tristan* (s. Löseth, p. 441) an encounter under these circumstances between Arthur and Gawain which has no connection, however, with the story in our Latin text.

Even more convincing, perhaps, for our present purpose are the following features, inasmuch as they are not common-places, which lend themselves easily to imitation, yet are paralleled elsewhere in Arthurian romance:

1. The opening of the story by a conversation between King Arthur and his consort as they lie in bed together. So the Harleian *Morte Arthur* (ed. Furnivall, London, 1864), which in the earlier part at least, is based on the French prose *Lancelot*.¹

2. The leading in of the steeds into the room where King Arthur is lying. The introduction of horses into halls is found elsewhere in the Arthurian romances, as well as in other branches of medieval literature. See the numerous examples cited in Child's *Ballads*, IV, 510; VI, 508. This feature of the romances may have answered to a real custom.

3. A nocturnal encounter between King Arthur and an unknown knight, which is brought on by an assertion² (or taunt) from his queen that she knows of a better knight than he. We find the same motive in the *Crône* of Heinrich von dem Türlin (ed. Scholl, Stuttgart, 1852) in the episode (ll. 3356 f.) which introduces Gasozein into the story. The resemblance between this episode and that in our romance, notwithstanding the much greater elaboration of the former, is in many points very striking and affords strong grounds for the suspicion that they are ultimately connected with one another. The episode in the *Crône* is as follows:

¹ I am not in a position to say whether the *Lancelot* MSS. contain just this feature of the English poem. At any rate, there can be little doubt of its coming, like everything else in the poem, from a French source.

² This story bears a certain resemblance, as regards *motif*, to that of *King Arthur and King Cornwall* and the group to which it belongs (cp. Child's *Ballads*, II, 274 f.), but the adventures which follow are altogether different in our romance.

Arthur, returning from a hunt, is very cold and draws close to the fire. His queen, observing him, taunts him with his want of endurance and contrasts his powers in this respect unfavorably with those of a knight she knows who, clad simply in a white shirt,

Ritet . . . âne pine
Den vurt vür Noirespine (ll. 3424 f.),

singing songs of love all through the winter night. Arthur, vexed at the taunt of his queen, secretly takes counsel with his men and rides out to an encounter with this strange knight, accompanied by Kei, Gâles and Aumagwîn. These latter in separate encounters vainly demand the stranger's name, Kei, moreover, applying to him the opprobrious epithets of robber and the like, but they are all unhorsed and their steeds led away by the victor. Aumagwîn in his fall had even been thrown into a *brunne* that flowed out of the hill, and would have drowned but for his companions' aid; so, like Arthur in our romance, he came away from the combat wet and humiliated. When Arthur's turn comes, he has better success than his knights, inasmuch as he presses the stranger very hard, and the latter on learning that he is King Arthur is willing to confess to him his name. The sequel of the story in the German poem does not concern us.

4. The episode of the *Castellum Puellarum* relates, of course, to the *Chastel aux Pucelles*, familiar to students of Arthurian romance.¹ In accordance with the usual tradition it lies "in aquilonari parte Britannie"² (p. 428). This concluding episode of the Latin romance is based in all probability on the same

¹The tourney at the *Chastel aux Pucelles* plays a considerable part in the prose *Tristan* (s. Löseth, p. 102, *et passim*). Cp. also the *Lancelot du Lac* (P. Paris, *Romans de la Table Ronde*, v, 114 ff.). In Malory it appears as the *Castel of Maydens* (Book XIII, Chap. xv).

²It was identified with Edinburgh. See the note on *Castellum Puellarum* in San Marte's edition of Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia*, Halle, 1854, p. 215.

source¹ as the episode in *Ider* (s. G. Paris, *Histoire Littéraire de La France*, xxx, 202, 204) where Arthur is summoned to the assistance of the Lady of the *Chateau des Pucelles* when besieged by the *Noir Chevalier*.² We have a kindred though different story of the rescue of this Lady in the English *Sir Perceval* of the Thornton ms. (ed. Halliwell in *The Thornton Romances*, Camden Society, London, 1844; see pp. 37 f.). There she figures as Lufamour, Lady of Maydenelande. Under the influence of the ballad poetry her oppressor has become a "Sowdane," who does not gain, however, even temporary possession of the Lady's person, and King Arthur no longer plays the humiliating rôle which is assigned to him in the *De Ortu Waluuanii*. In this last respect, as in the marriage of the rescuing knight with the Lady, the English romance doubtless represents more accurately the original source from which all the stories concerning the distresses of this heroine were drawn. Yet *Perceval* has probably taken the place of the older hero in a story which, as I think is evident, must at one time have enjoyed an independent existence.

Finally, it is to be remarked, in regard to this concluding portion of the Latin romance, that in the episode of Arthur's encounter with Gawain we have evidently some of the traits which usually characterize the seneschal in the romances here transferred to the king in a way which I am at a loss to parallel from works of this kind. This characterization of Arthur being essential, however, to the story here related, it

¹ The only suggestion of parallelism with Geoffrey of Monmouth which I find in this episode is in regard to Gawain's boast that he would accomplish alone what Arthur's whole army had failed in. In the *Historia*, Book III, Chap. xv, nearly the same thing is said of Morvidus: "Plus ipse solus in praeliando proficiebat quam maxima pars exercitus sui principatus." So, also, of Guiderius, Book IV, Chap. XIII. But these resemblances are no doubt accidental.

² It is impossible to say from M. Paris's analysis of *Ider*—the poem is still unpublished—in the place cited above, whether the story of Arthur's expedition in relief of the Lady is told in full or not in that romance.

must have constituted already a part of the original on which this portion of our Latin romance is based. The same is true of the ascription of prophetic powers to the queen. On the other hand, the singular change of the name of King Arthur's consort to Gwendolen,¹ which, as far as I know, does not occur elsewhere, could hardly have been the work of a romance-writer who desired to appeal to the usual audience to whom such works were addressed. It is no doubt due to the author of the Latin romance.

Having presented acceptable reasons, as I hope, for the supposition that to French sources are to be traced not only the account of Gawain's birth and youth, but also the concluding episodes of the *De Ortu Waluuanii*, we will now turn to a consideration of the middle portion of the romance, embracing the narrative of Gawain's expedition to Jerusalem, his adventures on the barbarous isle, his sea-fight and his duel with Gormundus.

It is obvious that the expedition of Gawain as the champion of the Christians at Jerusalem and the ensuing duel are quite independent of the other adventures just referred to. The duel with Gormundus, like the account of Gawain's sojourn at Rome, owes its origin, I believe, to a passage in Geoffrey of Monmouth. The name of the Persian champion is adopted from the heathen Gormundus, *rex Africanorum* (Book XI, Chap. VIII) and *infaustus Tyrannus* (*ibid.*, Chap. x) of that writer, but the episode of the duel was, I believe, unquestionably suggested by the similar contest between Arthur and Flollo in the *Historia* (Book IX, Chap. xi), where the conflict of two armies is in the same manner averted by this mode of settlement. In the *De Ortu Waluuanii* the combat is made

¹ In Sir W. Scott's *Bridal of Triermain* (Cantos I and II) there is a story of an amour of Arthur with a fay named Guendolen, but the episode seems to be wholly of Scott's own invention. The name Gwendoloena was most probably taken from the *Vita Merlini*, usually ascribed to Geoffrey of Monmouth. It is there the name of Merlin's wife. Cp. ll. 170 f. of this poem in San Marte's *Sagen von Merlin*, Halle, 1853, p. 278.

to extend over three days, the antagonists fight on foot because there is no horse tall enough to bear the heathen champion,¹ and the accounts are different in most of their other details, yet these details, such as they are in the Latin romance, required no great exercise of invention, and the episode seems to me to be a counterpart to the corresponding episode in Geoffrey. Certain features, after all, show plainly the influence of the earlier narrative on the later—namely, the fact that in each the author allows his hero at one stage of the contest to have the worst of it, and, again, the inclination of the hosts that look on to interfere in the duel.²

I see no reason for supposing that this episode of Gawain's expedition to Jerusalem³ and single combat with Gormundus did not form a part of the French source from which the story of his birth and youth were also drawn. In each we have a suggestion derived from Geoffrey of Monmouth developed with considerable freedom, although the interest of the later narrative is certainly very inferior to that of the earlier. This is, however, in a measure due to the copious rhetoric with which the author of the Latin romance has thought fit to invest his description of the mortal struggle between the champions of the two hosts. I think we may safely assume that the responsibility for all this empty verbiage rests with him and not with his original.

The adventure of the barbarous isle and of the sea-fight which follows opens, it is true, with a passage in which the

¹ So in the *Livre d'Artus*, in the MS. 337 *fonds français* of the Bibliothèque Nationale, no horse could bear the giant from whom Artus rescues the Countess of Orofoise. Cp. Freymond's analysis, *Zs. f. franz. Spr. und Lit.*, xvii, 96. The idea is, of course, known to legend elsewhere. The same thing, for instance, is told of King Hygelac in the tract, *De monstribus et bellis liber*, quoted Haupt's *Zs.*, v, 10.

² The Britons in Geoffrey (Book IX, Chap. xi), when they saw Arthur prostrate after the fall of his wounded horse, *vix potuerunt retineri, quin rupto foedere in Gallos unanimiter irruerunt*.

³ The idea of sending Gawain to Jerusalem as a champion of the Christians is due no doubt to a reminiscence of the Christian occupation of that city, which lasted from 1099 to 1187.

influence of Geoffrey of Monmouth is manifest, yet the story as a whole was certainly not suggested by anything in that writer, and I am at a loss to establish connections for it in the general fund of romantic stories.¹ The councils of war, the military operations conducted with concerted method, which enter into the narrative of this adventure—to say nothing of the description of the fight at sea—certainly betray the labor of a learned hand—the same, doubtless, which had already drawn on Geoffrey of Monmouth for such important materials in the construction of the romance. The story of the captive queen, of Gawain's penetrating secretly to the palace, and of the plot which, in conjunction with Nabaor, they contrive there is not founded, however, on anything in the *Historia*. On the other hand, it reads rather like an episode from one of the more romantic tales of the Decameron than a chapter in Arthurian fiction.² But little of this portion of the narrative, however, including the fight at sea, can be set down, I believe, to the account of the author who gave these stories their Latin dress. It is inconceivable that a person who was capable of inserting into the romance the outrageously burlesque receipt for the preparation of Greek fire (pp. 412 f.) could have himself composed this interesting episode, yet there are

¹ The proper names of this episode afford us no help in the matter. *Nabor* (usually *Nabaor* in the romance) occurs in the prose *Tristan* as a variant of the name of the giant, *Nabon* (e. g., cp. Löseth, p. 61), and the father of Sagremor in the Huth *Merlin* (I, 206) is *Nabur*, but no such story is connected with these characters. Neither the name of the king, *Milocrates*—a barbarous formation, indeed—nor that of his brother, *Buzafarnan*, do I find elsewhere. Curiously this latter personage is once called *Egesarius* (p. 410), but the origin of this name is as obscure to me as that of the rest. (N. B., also *Odabal*, which occurs nowhere else, as far as I can ascertain.) It is possible that *Buzafarnan* and *Egesarius* are both corrupt forms. How far names in the Arthurian romances have often departed from their original forms, in the course of copying, may be seen from F. Seiffert's *Namenbuch zu den af Französischen Artusepen*, Greifswald, 1882, pp. 5 ff.

² It will be easy, perhaps, for folk-lorists to point out parallels to the conception of a people who rarely lived beyond fifty or died under ten (p. 398)—also to the conception of the charmed arms (p. 406), on the possession of which depended the possession of the kingdom.

no peculiarities in the Latin of the inserted passage to distinguish its author from that of the episode. The sources of the Latin romance are doubtless not responsible for either this interpolation or the pseudo-learned description of the *rostrate*.

The account of the landing of the Roman expedition on the island, however, and of the hunting of Gawain and his men in the neighboring forest shows plainly the influence, as stated above, of a similar episode in Geoffrey of Monmouth—namely, that in which Brutus lands on the isle of Leogecia (Book I, Chap. XI) and despatches his men into the interior, where they slay wild beasts of various kinds and discover the deserted city with the temple of Diana. It is from the goddess there that Brutus learns his own destiny and that of his posterity. In the narrative of Gawain's encounter with the keepers of the forest we have an example of still further correspondence with the *Historia*. Just as Gawain,¹ having struck down the head-keeper, *apprehenso . . . naso cassidis eum ad socios traxit* (p. 400), so in Geoffrey Eldol *cepit Hengistum per nasale cassidis atque totis utens viribus, ipsum intra cives extraxit* (Book VIII, Chap. VI).

To sum up the results of this discussion of the sources, it has been demonstrated, I believe, that the author of the Latin romance drew his materials for the earlier periods of his hero's career—down to the point where he undertakes the championship of the Christians of Jerusalem—from an earlier French romance relating to Gawain—whether prose or metrical it is impossible to say. The former, I think, is more probable. For what may be termed the second division of the romance—namely, from the point just designated down to the hero's departure from Rome for King Arthur's court—the question of sources is more difficult. It is probable,

¹ Gawain's reply to the keeper: *Nec arma nisi in vestris visceribus recondita deponemus* (p. 399) may be a reminiscence of the phrase in Eldol's speech concerning Vortigern . . . *gladii mei mucronem intra viscera ipsius recondam* (Book VIII, Chap. II).

however, that for this division, too, French materials were employed, and, this being the case, I see no adequate reason for assuming that the incidents of the first and second divisions were drawn from a different source. On the other hand, if the source of this part of the story was indeed a French Arthurian romance, as is certainly the case with the other divisions, and not some tale of a different character, that source, as I think is evident, must have been made up, as regards these episodes, of materials which had nothing to do with Arthurian story. The last division, embracing the adventures of Gawain in Britain, are, we may say, certainly derived from a French Arthurian romance of the familiar pattern—most probably metrical. This last romance, moreover, is different to that which supplied the materials for the first and second divisions. It shows no use of Geoffrey of Monmouth nor of legends outside of the Arthurian cycle, and the incidents seem to me to bear the stamp of popular origin in the same sense as those which fill the romances of Chrétien de Troyes and his followers. This cannot be said of the first division nor of the second. The author has connected this last division with the preceding by retaining the hero's nickname from the latter, and accepting from the first division its characteristic conception in regard to the origin of the hero.

III.

AUTHOR.

The author of the Latin romance was himself a man of some learning—doubtless a member of one of the ecclesiastical orders. The occasional reminiscences in phraseology pointed out further back make it certain that he knew Geoffrey of Monmouth, and his allusions to the Egean sea (p. 398), the Cyclops (p. 421), and the battle of the Lapithae and Centaurs (p. 421) disclose an even more extended knowledge. In the composition of his romance he no doubt used his sources freely, and his work is probably nowhere a mere

translation. He has, moreover, added passages occasionally, it would seem, such as the description of Caerleon on Usk which opens the last division and is the only thing in that division that owes its suggestion to Geoffrey. The burlesque receipt for the preparation of Greek fire,¹ too, certainly does not belong to his sources. Finally the rhetorical flourishes which mark the style of the Latin work—most conspicuous in the account of the duel with Gormundus—are doubtless all the author's own.

In regard to the life or nationality of this author the MS. affords us no information. We find in it just preceding the *De Ortu Waluuanii* another romance relating to King Meriadoc of Wales of even somewhat greater length (Ward's *Catalogue*, I, 374 f.). I have had no opportunity of examining this story, but the self-satisfaction and the phraseology of the brief prologue, which I will now quote in part from Ward, remind one of the conclusion to our romance and lead me to suspect that the two romances are by the same author. The sentences of the prologue in question read as follows:

"Memoratu dignam dignum duxi exarare historiam. . . . Legencium igitur consulens utilitati illam compendioso perstringere stilo statui, sciens quod maioris sit precii brevis cum sensu oratio quam multiflua racione uacans locutio."

Ward (p. 375) remarks that "the early part of this romance was not improbably founded upon a Mabinogi; but the present version was not written by a Welshman, or he would not have said: *Sedes uero regni Caradoci regis et quo maxime frequentare solebat penes niualet montem qui Kambrice Snavodone resonat exstabat* (f. 2, cols. 1, 2), whereas the genuine Welsh name for the range is *Eryri*, and the word Snowdon is essentially English."

In default of further evidence there is nothing to be added to the above in regard to the nationality of the author of our romance. He was doubtless an Englishman.

¹ There is mention of Greek fire in the *Historia* (Book I, Chap. VII), but I do not believe that this is a point in which the romance has been influenced by Geoffrey.

IV.

DATE.

With respect to the date of the composition of the *De Ortu Walruanii*, Sir Frederic Madden has referred it, as seen above (p. 367), to the early part of the fourteenth century. He seems, however, to have had no better reason for this opinion than the fact that the manuscript which contains the romance belongs to that period (see Ward, I, 374). But the copy preserved in the Cottonian MS. is certainly not the original copy. The numerous omissions¹ of words and phrases in that MS. render it incredible that such should be the case. The date of the MS., then, can only serve to fix the downward limit of composition. An indication of the upward limit seems to be furnished by the very nickname of the hero—*Miles cum tunica armaturae*—inasmuch as the tunic worn over the armour (i. e., the surcoat) came into use in the early part of the thirteenth century.² The passage in which is explained the origin of the nickname appears to me to fix the source at least of the first division of the romance as belonging to the early part of the thirteenth century. For it is there (p. 396) said that before the young hero no one had thus worn a tunic over his armour. Such a passage could hardly have been written except when the custom was still quite new, as indeed a nickname so little distinctive could only have been employed by the romance-writer under these conditions. Considering that the incident through which the hero acquires this nickname forms an integral part of the story, it is not likely that the above-mentioned passage was introduced into the romance by the writer who worked up these materials in their Latin form. I think we may accord-

¹ See pp. 397, 409 *et passim*.

² See A. Schultz' *Das Höfische Leben zur Zeit der Minnesinger*, 2^{te} Auflage, Leipzig, 1889, II, pp. 40 f.—also p. 58, where it is again stated as introduced “in den ersten Decennien des dreizehnten Jahrhunderts.”

ingly infer from what has just been observed that the source¹ of the first division (and of the second,² too, of course, if that is by the same hand) is to be referred to the early part of the thirteenth century.

In regard to the final division of the romance we can only say that the similarity of its incidents and character to those of the romances of Chrétien and his followers affords reason for referring the source of this division to the chief period of the production of these romances—namely, that which embraces the latter part of the twelfth century and the early part of the thirteenth. As the source of the earlier divisions seems to belong to the early thirteenth century, it is most probable that the romance on which this part of the *De Ortu Waluuanii* is based dated also from that period.

Finally, there is no indication beyond those already mentioned in regard to the time when the materials drawn from these sources were worked up into the form of a Latin romance. It does not seem likely, however, that this should have occurred very long after the original romances themselves came into existence. I should, therefore, be inclined to fix upon the second quarter of the thirteenth century as the period when the *De Ortu Waluuanii* was composed.

¹The connection of this source with the passage in the *Perlesvaus* affords us no indication of date, because the two, as we have seen above (p. 375), are not *directly* connected. They only go back to a common source. *Perlesvaus* (or *Perceval li Gallois*) is assigned by Birch-Hirschfeld (*Sage vom Gral*, p. 143) to the second quarter of the thirteenth century.

²If the images of birds attached to the masts, which deceive the Centurion on the approach of Buzafarnan's fleet (p. 410), do indeed answer to anything in the ornamentation of ships during the Middle Ages, a clue to the date of this part of the romance (i. e., its source) might be furnished. But with the means of determining this which are accessible to me, I am unable to say whether such is the case.

V.

TEXT.

De ortu Waluuanii nepotis Arturi.

[Cott. MS. Faustina, B. VI.]

[Fol. 23, col. 2.] Vterpendragon rex, pater Arturi, omnium Britannie confinium prouinciarum sue dicioni reges subegerat, tributariosque efficiens eorum filios partim loco obsidum, partim honestate morum militarique erudiendos disciplina sua in curia detinebat. Inter quos Loth nepos [Si]chelini regis Norgwegie educabatur, adolescens mirandus aspectu, robore corporis animique uirtute peditus, unde et regi Vthero eiusque filio Arturō ceteris suis coetaneis kerior habitus ipsius secreta cubiculi continue frequentabat. Erat autem regi filia Anna dicta incomparabilis pulcritudinis, que cum matre regina in thalamo morabatur. Cum qua dum predictus adolescens sepe iuueniliter luderet et iocosa secretius uerba consereret, utrique alterutro capiuntur amore. Alterni tamen affectus diu ab invicem cum timore tum pudore dissimulati sunt. Verum quia ad instar flamme amor quo magis tegitur, eo magis accenditur, indeque capit augmentum unde minui festinatur, magnitudinem tandem amoris in se continere non ualentes, que mente conceperant mutuo patefaciunt. Sui igitur uoti compotes effecti assensum uoluptati adhibent, statimque illa impregnata intumuit.

[Fol. 23b, col. 1.] Pariendi uero appropinquante termino, egritudinem simulans secreto cubat cubiculo, unam tantum pedissequam huius rei habens consciam. Tempus tandem quo fetum expelleret aduenerat, paruulumque eleganti forma enixa est. Conduxerat autem ditissimos e transmarinis finibus commercia sectantes pactaque cum eis sub iureiurando fuerat, ut statim ubi in lucem prodiret, ne a quoquam comperiretur, secum suam in patriam infantem abducerent ac usque adultam etatem diligenter educarent. Natum itaque infantulum, nemine sciente, negociatores suscipiunt, cum quo genitrix eis auri et

argenti preciosarumque uestium innumerabilem copiam contulit. Tradidit quoque ingentis precii pallium insertis gemmis auro undique intextum nec non et anulum lapide smaragdino insignitum, quem a rege custodiendum acceperat, quo ipse dumtaxat festiuis diebus uti solebat. Cartam eciam regis sigillo signatam addidit, cuius textus eum certis insinuabat indiciis ex regis Norwegie nepote sororeque Arturi progenitum Waluuaniumque a genitrice nominatum et propter regis timorem ad extraneas fuisse destinatum prouincias. Hec idcirco illa, scilicet pallium anulum et cartam, prouido usa consilio cum eo prebere studuit, ut, si forte quandoque rediens a parentibus ^[Col. 2.] non agnitus refutaretur, signum certitudinis exhiberent et per eorum indicia ad parentum perueniret notitiam.

Negotiatores igitur sue tuicioni commissum paruulum tolentes nauem con[s]cendunt, datisque uentis carbasis alta sulcantes equora viij tandem die Gallicanas *allabuntur*¹ ad horas, nactique continentem duobus miliariis a ciuitate Narbonensi appulsi sunt. Quo ubi applicuerunt sale reumateque maris tabentes, ad urbem se spaciatum, lintre in portu relicto, omnes properant, unum tantummodo puerum qui suas res lactentemque in cunis iacentem tueretur deserentes, remocius quippe ab urbe sub prerrupta rupe appulerant nullumque interim ratem aditurum credebant. Sed, illis egressis, forte quidam piscator e uicino pago, Viamundus uocabulo, rebus quidem pauper sed genere et moribus honestus, ut moris cotidie habebat, cum coniuge per litus gradiebatur, inuestigans si piscem inuenire potuisset freti retractu in continenti destitutum, cuius sibi precio uictum acquireret. Hic carinam appulsam intuitus, ceteris omissis, illuc confestim tetendit, ingressusque neminem excepto puero qui ad eius tutelam relictus fuerat et illum quidem dormientem repperit. Videns autem paruulum prestanti forma nauemque sine custode omnibus refertam diuiciis suamque considerans paupertatem quam ibi, for^[Fol. 24, col. 1.]tuna fauente, releuare poterat—ut in prouerbio

¹ ms. albabuntur.

dicitur, oportunitas loci et temporis reddit latronem—quicquid maioris estimacionis in auro et argento uariaque suppellectili sibi uidebatur diripuit. Infantem quoque et thecam ad caput eius stantem in qua pallium anulus et carta continebantur uxori tradens (*sic*), opibus honesti ad sua cum festinatione, nullo negotium aduertente, abscesserunt. Institores autem post paululum ad naualia regressi dampnum sibi illatum rebus sublatis offendunt. Cuius rei euentu inopino dolore percussi maximoque merore consternati ad gemitus et fletus omnes conuersi sunt, diemque in lamentacionem continuauerunt et maxime ob infantis surrepcionem quem sue fidei constabat creditum. Moxque ad hoc idoneos electos per uicina lictora ruraque nuncios mittunt, qui rem diligenter indagarent et qui sibi tantum [dampnum] intulissent discrimine inquirerent. Sed quoniam quod omnium latet noticiam difficile deprehenditur, nichil certitudinis anticipantes, ad nauem qui missi fuerant mesti remearunt.

Viamundus autem subtractam cum infantulo substantiam ad casam deferens occuluit, ipsumque loco filii, quia proprio carebat, adhibita diligencia enutriuit. Verebatur tamen opulenciam qua pollebat in palam proferre—quia et egestas qua hactenus afficiebatur exstabat notissima et furti quod commiserat adhuc fiebat questio—ne opum *ostentacione*¹ perpetrati sceleris infamia notaretur. [Col. 2.] Septem autem annorum transcurso spacio Romam pergere deliberauit, et facti penitudine ductus et quod non dubitabat se illo ut in extranea regione suis facultatibus licite posse uti. Omnibus igitur uie necessariis paratis et compositis, uxore filio adoptiuo familiaeque comitantibus, cum uniuersa substantia iter arripuit inque breni sane et prospere Romana menia attigit. Ingressus autem omni die urbem circum quaque circumibat, cunctaque perscrutans, statum loci, mores ciuium et nomina *senatorum*² ac principum callide inquirebat. Roma uero ea tempestate ui barbarorum capta et subacta fuerat et pene usque ad internicionem desolata, muris dirutis, edificiis combustis, ciuibus

¹ MS. ostentacionem.

² MS. sanatorum.

captiuatis et dispersis uariisque suppliciis interemptis. Sed nouus in imperio imperator successerat, qui ruine urbis condolens diruta reedificabat, ciues dispersos congregabat, captos redimebat, summopere dans operam eam ad pristinae felicitatis statum reducere. Quibus Viamundus agnitis et ut erat astuti ingenii, rem sibi intelligens ad uotum succedere, nil moratus, se egregio cultu adornauit, seruos et quam plurima mancipia a uicinis oppidis magnosque apparatus *comparauit*,¹ seruorumque numerosa turba uallatus per mediam urbem ad palacium tendit, omnibus spectaculo factus cum ex splendidis ornamentis tum ex se anticipancium multitudine, veniensque [Fol. 24b, col. 1.] ad imperatorem honorifice suscipitur. Cum quo demum colloquia conserens [narravit] se ex nobilissima Romanorum oriundum familia Gallieque partibus commoratum populi ducatum habuisse, sed, audita urbis clade et infortunio, se conciuium uires adauctum illo properasse, utque sibi cum suis habitandi in ea locum tribueret suppliciter flagitabat. Imperator autem, eum non parue generositatis cum ex ueneranda canicie cum uariarum decore rerum tum e satellitum numerositate estimans et coniciens, quod ad se uenerit gratias agit, seque eum, si in urbe commoraretur, multiplici donaturum spondet honore. Deditque illi aulam marmoream mire structure stupendisque comptam edificiis pre foribus sui palatii, que Scipionis Affricani testatur fuisse. Municipia quoque uineas et agriculturas extra urbem contulit suis seruituras expensis.

Tanta itaque fortune Viamundus ultra omnem estimacionem nactus beneficia se tam lepide tamque decenter et genere agebat, ut imperatorem senatum populumque in sui admiracionem converteret omniumque se amatum traheret affectus celebrisque sermo de sua largitate et munificencia per totam urbem clam palamque ferreretur. Senatorum quippe et nobilium Rome ad eum cotidie conuentus fiebat, nec non et ab aula imperiali pretext[at]i pueri militumque turba ob gratiam paruuli confluebant [Col. 2.], quos uariis deliciis² * * * * *

¹ ms. comperauit.² Word following undecipherable.

uiuiis donisque honorabat largissimis. Crescente interea etate puero, crescebat et animi uirtute et corporis habilitate, suique genitoris qui credebatur emulator existens, industrie facecie probitatieque studebat. Frequentabat et ipse palacium familiarisque cum subditis habebatur principi. Quedam enim in illo ingenite vigeabant uirtutis quibus se uidencium animos ad se amandum extorquebat et alliciebat. Erat siquidem procera decentique statura, lepido gestu, pulcra facie, ingentique preditus fortitudine. Jamque duodecimum eui annum attigerat, cum Viamundus graui tentus egritudine lecto decubuit. Qui, ingrauescente languore, dum sibi uite finem imminere cerneret, per primores ciuitatis imperatorem papamque Sulpicium, per id tempus apostolice sedi presidentem, ut ad se uenire suaque colloquia dignarentur plurimum exorabat. Illi autem tanti uiri preces, quem ob morum liberalitatem non parum dilexera[n]t, minime renuentes, assumptis secum uiris excellencioribus ciuitatis, gratuito affectu ad eum conuenere. Aduenientibus uero Viamundus primum de impertitis sibi ab illis beneficiis debitas grates exsoluit, demum, eos secreto conuocans, uite prioris statum, quo casu tantarum diuiciarum gloriam adeptus fuerit puerumque quem educabat reppererit, totiusque uite ordinem seriatim exposuit. Subiunxitque: "Hoc estuanti" inquit "animo uestre [Fol. 25, col. 1.] celsitudini sepius intimare deliberaui sed semper temporis oportunitatem usque ad pressens distuli. Nunc autem ultimo fato incumbente ea fateri compulsus, licet quod postulo homini seruilis condicionis a tocius orbis dominis iuste *negari*¹ possit, tamen amicie familiaritatisque memores quibus me dignati estis mee uos petitioni non abnuere estimo. Est quidem quod uos petiturus acciui, hunc puerum quem loco filii enutriui et cum quo hec omnis mihi rerum copia contigit uestre sullimitatis tuicioni committere, ut eum educantes ad militarem ordinem, dum etas affuerit, promoueatis. Nepotem quippe Arturi regis Britannie—iam enim, patre defuncto, [regnum] suscepit—de quo tante probitatis fama ubique uolat, eum esse noueritis,

¹ MS. *regari*.

quem *a parentum*¹ nobilitate non degeneraturum non dubito. Rem tamen ab omnibus et ab ipso laudo haberi secretam, nec etiam nomen ipsius, donec a suis cognoscatur parentibus, patefiat, quia et hoc carte monimenta que eius testantur prosapiam prohibent. Vbi autem in uirilem etatem proruperit, cum uestris litteris et sue propaginis certis indiciis, que satis apud me habentur probabilia, oro remittatur." Puerumque aduocans, qui, quia quo nomine censeretur nesciebatur, usque ad illud tempus Puer sine Nomine uocatus fuerat, imperatoris amplexus uestigia, supplici prece summisque uotis eum commendauit. Loculum quoque quo testamenta a matre contradita continebantur iubens afferri imperatori ostendit. Quibus ^[Col. 2.] uisis, imperator, uiri liberalitatem circa puerum habitam multa laude efferens, puerum iniectis brachiis suscipit, se eius uoluntati per omnia satisfacturum spondens. Sicque Viamundus quod maxime affectauerat pro uoto adeptus, imperatore assidente, letus defungitur, maximaque lamentacione cunctorum [in] monumentis nobilium, constructa desuper ab imperatore miri operis piramide, sepelitur.

Post Viamundi autem obitum Puer sine Nomine ad palacium iussu principis ductus inter regales pueros annumeratur. Trium uero annorum emenso termino, xv scilicet etatis anno, sua probitate exigente, armis ab imperatore instruitur. Cum quo et uiginti alios iuuenes ob gratiam ipsius milicia donauit. Indequa cum ceteris tironibus iuuentuque Romana ad circum, quo cursus equorum fieri solebant progressus, quanta se ea die uirtute egerit, quam strenue gesserit, fauor omnium circo astancium eum prosecutus testimonio fuit. In illo siquidem spectaculo nullus ei resistere, uiribus² equiparari ualuit, quin quemcunque obuium haberet mutuo *congressu*³ prosterneret. Qua propter, equiriis celebratis, aurea quam rex uictori proposuerat insignitus corona, pompa cum laudibus eum prosequente, in presencia[m] imperatoris adducitur. Quem

¹ MS. apparentum.

² On the margin is written nullus eius uiribus.

³ MS. congressi. Doubtless the additional stroke at the end omitted by mistake.

imperator de singulari probitate non mediocriter collaudans cuiuscumque [Fol. 25b, col. 1.] muneris a se uoluisse remunerationem poscere concessit. Ille autem "nil aliud" ait "tuam mihi, O imperator, munificenciam opto conferre, nisi ut primam congressionem singularis pugne que tibi contra tuorum aliquem hostium sit agenda concedat." Annuit imperator eumque in primo equestrium constituit ordine. Prima uero die qua ipse ad miliciam assumptus fuerat tunicam sibi parauerat purpuream, quam, ad pretaxatum¹ equestre certamen processurus, armis superinducens, tunicam armature nuncupauit. Dumque a militibus quereretur cur eam super arma induisset—neque enim antea huiusmodi tunica armis septus aliquis usus fuerat—respondit se tunicam armature ad hornatum adhibuisse. Ad quod responsum ei ab omni acclamatur exercitu: "nouus miles cum tunica armature! nouus miles cum tunica armature!" ac deinceps hoc illi mansit uocabulum, "Miles cum tunica armature." Qui *altiori*² ab imperatore promotus honore semper ad *altiora*³ uirtutis et probitatis tendebat, cui in omni congressu, in omni certamine, celebre nomen singularisque fortitudo ascribebatur.

Dum hec Rome geruntur, bellum inter Persarum regem Christianosque Ierosolimis commorantes oriri contigit. Ventumque erat ad diem prefinitum certamini et tam equestrium quam pedestrium ingentibus copiis conferte circumstantes acies sibi spectaculum incutiebant terroris, distinctisque ordinibus gradatim [Col. 2.] ad prelium appropriaba[n]t.⁴ Jamque tubis clangentibus, tensis neruis, telisque erectis, primipilares dextras conserere festinabant, dum euo consilioque maturiores utriusque partis, considerantes tante multitudinis tantique roboris conflictum non sine maximo posse fore discrimine, in medium procedentes, primum refrenant impetum ac de pacis condicione locuturos ad inuicem legatos dirigunt. Diutius autem inter eos locucione habita, tandem in hoc uniuersi

¹ Cp. *Ducange* under *praetaxatus* (= *praetactus* = *praedictus*).

² *ms.* alteriori.

³ *ms.* altiora.

⁴ Cp. *Ducange* under *appropriare* (= *appropinquare*).

dedere consensum, ut hinc et inde unus ad duellum eligeretur et cui cessisset uictoria cederet et rerum unde agebatur dominium. Verumptamen Ierosolomitani, quia hoc sine assensu Cesaris, sub cuius degebant imperio, non audeba[n]t concedere, sibi dari *pacerunt*¹ inducias, donec ad Cesarem super hoc re legacionem mitterent et eius uoluntatem agnoscerent; se uero ad hanc paccionem pronos animo, si ab eo concederetur, iureiurando asserebant. Igitur, concessis induciis, qui hanc legacionem fungerentur eligunt, electosque, postposita dilacione, mittunt, precipientes illos, ut, si Cesarem quod postulabant minime renuere animaduernerent, etiam ad propositum certamen idoneum uirum ab eo flagitarent. Missi itaque iter maturantes ad imperatorem ueniunt inductique [in] senatum uie causam disertissime perorauerant. Imperator autem, super relatis inito consilio, eorum petitioni concedendum deliberauit, sed quem dirigeret dubitabat. Dumque uariis sententiis sermo intractaretur, res [Fol. 26, col. 1.] Militis cum tunica armature defertur ad aures. Qui, nil moratus, in conspectu imperatoris, sumpta audacia, prorupit atque "O!" ait, "imperator, tue munificencie te opto memorem [esse] quam me ad tyrocinium delectum, me petente, dignanter donasti, ut primum singulare certamen quod tibi tuos contra aduersarios ineundum foret mihi annueres. Ecce non tantum tibi et Romano populo, uerum etiam fidei Christiane a perfidis bellum indicitur. Oro tuam sullimitatem ut mihi quod concessit permittat, quatinus et tue sponsionis effectum assequar et Romani populi dignitatem cultumque religionis ulciscar." Imperator autem, licet tam probum militem et sibi necessarium a se dimittere et tanto destinare discrimini admodum egre ferret, tamen [quia] et sua hoc exigebat promissio et illo ad tale negotium magis nesciebat idoneum—presertim cum ex illius qui mittendus erat fortitudine suorum omnium uires uirtutemque pensandas seque dampnum et dedecus, si uinceretur, lucrum autem et gloriam, si uicisset, manere nouerat—ex senatus consulto fieri adiudicauit.

¹ MS. pacierunt.

Armis itaque bene et decenter instructum et munitum eum imperator cum legatis dirigit, centum ei insuper cum uno centurione adiunctis equitibus, ut et honorifice pergeret et siquid sibi per tanta terrarum marisue spacia aduersi contigisset eorum amminiculo euitaret. Nec mora, uiam ineunt et ad mare Adriaticum deuenientes naues conscendunt. Erant autem rates cum ^[Col. 2.] eis xvi, quarum alias negociantes alias ad loca sancta properantes ob piratarum seuciam qui per maris latitudinem uagabantur in eorum comitatu coadunaerant. Hiis igitur coniunctis, portum deserentes in altum deferuntur. Quo diebus xxv tumidis iactati fluctibus, dum nec portum petere nec rectum possent cursum dirigere, undique procellis surgentibus, magnisque circumacti anfractibus, ad quandam insulam gentis barbarice appulsi sunt. Cuius incole tante feritatis existebant, ut nulli sexui, nulli paterent etati, quin sontes et insontes ab extranea natione uenientes pari pena multarent. Ideoque a nullo petebantur sectante commercia, sed ab omni gente cui tante infamia nequicie inno-cuerat uitabantur manebantque in orbem quasi extra orbem positi, ab omnium consorcio segregati. Nam et omnium pecudum ac uolucrum carne uesti inmodiceque dicuntur, uoluptati subditi, ut nec patres filios nec filii a quibus sint geniti prossus agnoscant. Trium cubitorum statura mensuram non excedit etasque ad quinquagesimum annum protenditur. Raro aliquis infra x uita diffungitur nec quinquagesimum superuiuens annum transgreditur. Cultu cibusque diffusi, laboribus assueti, diuiciis affluentes in propagacione sobolis noscuntur fecundi. Jam uero fama per omnes paganorum regiones percrebuerat, militem ab imperatore missum ad initum uenire duellum cuius congressum nemo sufferre ualebat. ^[Fol. 26b, col. 1.] Ideoque ad uniuersas sue dicionis insulas in Egeo mari—quod transfretaturus erat—adiacentes clanculo mandauerant, ut portus et lictora iugi excubacione obseruarent, et, si forte appulisset, opprimerent, ne ad statutum diem uenire potuisset. Nec non et piratas diuersis in locis lata equoris statuerant obsidere spacia, ut, si ab hostia obseruantibus min-

ime lesi euasissent, ab hiis qui per fretum usque discurrebant inopinate exciperentur. Regnabat autem ea tempestate in illa insula quidam, dictus Milocrates, inimicus Romani populi, qui, neptem imperatoris quam regi Illirico dederat ui capiens et abducens, illam insulam potencia occupauerat. Huic quoque sicut et ceteris notificatis insidiis, ciuitates et oppida que uel pelago imminebant seu penes quas *aptos*¹ applicantibus portus fore compererat militibus et custodibus munierat, ut et illi² transeuntem infestarent et hec appellentes subito inuaderent. Lictora autem quibus applicuerant per girum erant circumdata nemoribus, minus tamen opima agrestibus animalibus, unde ob eorum raritatem et ab incolis extraneisque superuenientibus artius seduliusque seruabantur, quorum esu, rege excepto ac eius principibus, nulli fas erat perfrui.

Hanc igitur ubi prefatus centurio cum sua classe est nactus insulam, Miles cum tunica armature, paucis comitantibus, puppim egressus siluas uenatum adiit. Jamque vi prostratis, [Col. 2.] discopulatis canibus, vii insequi ceruum ceperat, dum ecce canum latratus tubarumque strepitus in interiorem siluam positus custos percepit nemoris. Accitisque sociis quorum tutele secum silua tuenda a rege commissa fuerat arma iubet capere. Nam xx milites, qui illam tuerentur, disponebantur, quorum absque licencia nulli tutus in eo patebat ingressus. Arma iussi capiunt atque uenantibus iam preda potitis occurrunt. Querunt cuius licencia regia depopulentur nemora, que nec etiam ingressu pacifico subire cuiquam licebat. Jubentur arma deponere atque pro temeritate patrata iudicium subituri regem adire. E contra Miles cum tunica armature respondit: "Cuius huc aduenimus eiusque licencia nobis necessaria inuadimus, nec arma nisi in uestris uisceribus recondita deponemus." Dixerat et ualido *attorquens*³ pila lacerto in tumido rigidum congressit gutture ferrum, cuius dextra grauis compescuit ora minantis. Custos autem nemoris saucius ingemuit, sed cum ipso dolore magis intumuit atque e plaga extractum toto conamine missile in Militem cum tunica arma-

¹ MS. aptus.² MS. ille.³ MS. et torquens.

ture remisit quod ab eo errore delatum robori infixum est. Nec mora, hinc et inde concurrunt ceteri et nunc cominus, consertis dextris, sibi inuicem uulnera ingruunt nec eminus telorum iactu configunt. Ex parte quidem Militis cum tunica armature plures habebantur sed inermes, cum aduersariis omnium munimen armorum adesset. Ac Miles cum tunica armature, dum suos cedere uideret postibus, stricto gladio [Fol. 27, col. 1.] in eorum ducem irruens humo prostrauit, apprehensoque naso cassidis eum ad socios traxit ac uita cum armis destituit. Quibus ipse indutus, propriam hortatus turmam, inuasit hostilem, ceterisque fugatis xiii solus peremit. Fugientes uero per siluarum abdita turba insequitur militum, omnesque quos assequi possunt ad Tartara dirigunt. Cui cedi unus superstes relinquitur, ut tante cladis existat nuncius. Is inter densa fruticum se o[c]culens delituit, donec manus aduersaria discedens se desisteret persequi. Qua recedente, ocius surrexit, regem adiit atque ei que gesta fuerant retulit. Morabatur autem tunc temporis rex Milocrates in finitima ciuitate, quam tribus milibus a mari amenissimo in loco condiderat. Qui, hostium aduentu suorumque militum interitu cognito, missis continuo nunciis, tocius prouincie principes, cum quanta manu ualerent, quantocius conuenire imperat. Illi autem, ut imperatum erat et loco et tempore, cum collecta multitudine adueniunt. Aduenientes autem per uicinos pagos hospitabantur, quia predicta eos ciuitas capere non poterat. Rex uero Milocrates cum eorum principibus quid agendum foret deliberabat.

Interea Miles cum tunica armature, deuictis hostibus, ad naues regreditur, cuius uictorie adeptis remuneratus spoliis omnis congratulatur exercitus. Die autem tertia inceptum affectabatur iter aggredi, sed, flabris obstantibus, in [Col. 2.] loco coacti sunt remorari. Centurio igitur nimis inde afflictus maiores milicie congregat atque ab eis de patrandis negociis consilium expetit. Affirmabat enim regem illius insule eiusque principes ob suorum perniciem iam se contra moueri

eosque¹ in ulcionem peremptorum se oppressum ire iam conspirasse, ni discessum maturassent. Se autem, sibi aura remittente, inde discendere non ualere, nec tutum fore illuc dicebat manendum, dum nec ad multitudinis repulsionem hostium militum haberetur copia nec suis expensis tam longo in tempore necessaria suppeterent. "Oportet" *inquit*² "igitur *quempiam*³ nostrum uires et consilia inuestigatum ire aduersariorum, ut, cognitis que penes eos factitantur, que nobis agenda sunt utilius prouideamus. Dicta ducis placent atque qui hoc exerceant negotium duo de omnibus eliguntur, quorum unus Miles cum tunica armature, alter, Odabal dictus, centurionis exstabat consanguineus, qui et in dubiis prouidi et cauti et in aduersis probi et strenui pre ceteris noscebantur. Hii armis septi iussum iter arripiunt atque per nemus ad urbem tendunt. In cuius silue aditu aper ille in manus occurrit, colla ad modum hastilium setis obsitus, aduncis dentibus rictus munitus, ab cuius ore fulmine euaporante, spumaque per armos fluente, obliquo in illo impetu ferebatur. Miles cum tunica armature autem, illo uiso, de sonipede desiliit, ac splendidum dextra uibrans uenabulum, antequam se copiam aggrediendi haberet, in illo pedes ^[Fol. 27b, col. 1.] irruit. Cuius fronti inter supercilia infixum spiculum, cetera percurrentes, sibi per ilia fecit exitum. Nec tamen statim corrui, *sed*⁴ cum accepto uulnere furorem concepisse uidebatur, ut, tametsi deficiente sanguine uires plurime defecissent, quantumuis dabatur eum cum dente impeteret. Op[p]osito uero egide dum ictum Miles cum tunica armature exciperet, euaginato gladio, capud in se furentis abscidit ac eum in suo cruore uolutantem dimisit. Quem *equo*⁵ impositum ipsius armiger sui ex parte ad centurionem detulit atque citato cursu rediens illum ad urbis ualuas mediante die anticipauit. Ciuitatem autem introgressi palacium adire,⁶ mixtique cum aliis inter regales quasi forent ex ipsis conuersabantur. Innumerosa

¹ MS. qui.³ MS. quodpiam.⁵ MS. eco.² MS. inquit.⁴ MS. set.⁶ *Is this intended as the Historical Infinitive?*

namque turba eos qui essent non deprehensi sinebant, dum etiam et hoc ad eorum accidisset tutelam, quod illius patrie lingue *periciam*¹ non ignorabant. Urbem itaque pagosque quoquouersus perlustrantes uirtutem muneraque milicie inuestigabant aut que presens aderat ceu quam fore uenturam audierant; minime quippe adhuc omnis exercitus conuenerat. Pridie namque rex Milocrates classem Romanorum quosdam exploratum miserat, qui repedantes oppido eum terruerant, se tantam astipulantes armatorum repperisse multitudinem, quantam inermium eius insula nunquam continuisset. Exploratores siquidem a centurione capti fuerant, quos ille ibi moitem *minans*² se talia ducturos sacramento spondere coegerat. Insuper et eis, quo eos [Col. 2.] sibi fideliores haberet, plurima dona largitus ad propria eos dimisit, vnde rex Milocrates classem inuasum ire nisi cum forti manu uerebatur. Germanum autem suum, Buzafarnan nomine, confinia regna regentem per legatos acciuerat, ut sibi in tanta necessitate quanta et quam cicius posset conferret presidia. Cuius eo aduentum expectante, belli protelabantur negocia. Eo autem die quo Miles cum tunica armature urbem aduenerat rex forte Milocrates *optimatum*³ conuentum coegerat, ab eis sciscitans quid in rebus instantibus factu opus foret. In *quo*⁴ ab omnibus statutum est, ut, eius fratre, rege Buzarfa[r]nan, aduente, exercitus duabus distingueretur in partibus, e quibus una nauali, alia terrestri aduersarios aggredereur prelio, ut nullus fuge locus pateret. Miles uero cum tunica armature, inter alios incognitus residens, singula que dicebantur intenta aure, percepta memori mente notabat.

Jamque Phebus occiderat et rex Milocrates ad prandium festinabat. In cuius comitatu se agens Miles cum tunica armature, sociis se aforis opperientibus, regiam ingreditur, ceterisque discumbentibus, cubiculum quo neptis imperatoris seu regina, quam rex Milocrates, ut pretaxauimus,⁵ legitimo

¹ MS. pmcā.³ MS. oportunatum.² MS. minantem.⁴ MS. que.⁵ Cp. *Ducange* under *praetaxatus* (= *praetactus* = *praedictus*).

*uiro*¹ abstulerat, cum suis dumtaxat residebat puellis, nullo subito sciente. Tardior quippe ora uisus hebetauerat sed nec quid tale posse contingere aliquis *autumabat*.² Cepit autem quid ageret apud se de^[Fol. 28, col. 1.]liberare, et quicquid sinistri sibi obuenire ualeret sedulo mentis oculo prouidere. Si enim, ut proposuerat, in thalamo delitescens regi sopito necem inferret, *uerebatur*³ ne et ipse deprehensus similem penam lueret. Si autem, nulla probitate patrata, repedasset, profecto pro inerte timidoque haberetur. Dum talia secum uolueret, quidam miles, Nab[a]or nuncupatus, unus scilicet ex illis quos nuper rex classem centurionis exploratum miserat, missus a rege ad reginam aduenit. Intuebatur eum Miles cum tunica armature nec ab illo aduertebatur; mos quippe est quod in umbra constituti luci presentes clare aspiciant ipsique ab illis incircumspecti maneant. Hunc igitur Miles cum tunica armature, dum cum aliis exploratoribus a centurione captus teneretur, firma uinxerat amicitia, anulumque ei cum purpurea clamide ob sui tradiderat memoriam. Eo igitur uiso, ex amicitia audaciam sumit, eumque ad se clanculo acciens amplectitur, causam aduentus insinuat, atque quedam quibus eius ergasse experiretur prelocutus, fauorem—ubi eum sibi remota fraude animum aduertit fauere—ad ea que mente perceperat perpetranda sibi subsidio fore supplicatur. Nabaor autem admodum ex eius presencia admiratur et, *cur*⁴ uenerit cognito, eius remunerandi munificenciam locum se inuenisse gaudebat. Secretiori itaque ei inducto thalamo, “O mi” inquit “carissime! tuo posse maius est quod affectas nec tuis solis uiribus appetendum. Triginta namque forcium ^[Col. 2.] regis accubitus peruigiles ambiunt, uti nec etiam familiaribus, usque dum dies lucescat, ad eum fiat accessus. Preterea plerisque temporibus industria potius quam uiribus scias utendum, quia etiam ex parte uirium industria multociens quod cupitur prospere efficitur, sine qua ad successum negotii nunquam uiribus uenitur. Hac autem comite, propositum aggredere,

¹ MS. nuro.³ MS. verberabatur.² MS. attumabat.⁴ MS. cum.

me cum te quo ordine agatur docente. Regina tui nimio detinetur amore teque uel alloqui seu per internuncios tua cognicione ardentissime cupit potiri. A me enim ab exploratoris redeunte officio cuius forme statureque sis sepius est percunctata, quem utrisque incomparabilem esse respondens eius animum in tui accendi amorem, ut potius de tui quam de regis occupetur salute. Quamquam nimirum ut huius regina patrie maximo a rege Milocrate honoris et glorie sullimetur fastigio, tamen, quia se a maritali thoro captam iure predonis menti non excidit, semper se captiuitatis remordet obprobrium, malletque alias cum paupere libera quam hic omni rerum pompa suffulta degere captiua. Audiens autem te ob ingentam incomparabilemque probitatem ab imperatore ad pactum destinatum conflictum huc appulisse, toto conamine nititur, omni studio molitur, ut tuum modo adipisci possit alloquium. Sperat namque, si tuam attingat noticiam, se tua uirtute et fortitudine a captiuitatis iugo liberandam et suo marito, cui ab im^[Fol. 28b, col. 1.]peratore dotata noscitur, restituendam. Sciasque procul dubio omni industria et ingenio illam operam adhibituram, omni ab illa sagacitate curandum, ut tibi uires et ualorem augeat et quod uersum regem Milocraten preualere efficiat. Verumptamen, quia mens muliebris leuitatis nota arguitur et ad quoslibet motus inconstancie cicius aura flectitur, prius callide temptandum est quorsum eius uergat affectus. Que, si te adesse comperisset, nec regis timor nec fame pudor eam arceret, quin tecum uerba consereret. Pergam igitur ad eam, regis ei mandata laturus, atque inter cetera de te sollertem mencionem faciens, cui parti eius innitatur inuestigabo uoluntas. Tu uero hic interim rei latenter euentum expecta."

Regina[m] itaque Nabaor adiit; inter quos, dum uaria miscerentur colloquia, de Milite cum tunica armature tandem sermo habitus est. Quem dum Nabaor de miris ab eo patratibus operibus multa laude efferret: "O me felicem!" inquit regina "si apud tam probum uirum mee ualerem miserie querelam deponere profecto! si non ob aliud, saltim ob

imperatoris gratiam, cuius neptis ego sum et cuius miles ipse est, me ab huius eriperet tyrannide! Vellem igitur, si quempiam fidelem inuenirem, ad eum nuncium mittere, si quomodo nos uisendi et colloquendi nobis detur facultas." Erat autem Nabaor, cum quo illa loquebatur, unus ex illis quos una secum rex Milocrates seruitutis uinculo mancipauerat. Ideoque ^[Col. 2.] illi, ut suorum secretorum conscio, sue mentis tucius committebat archana. Cui ille respondit: "Nil tuis, O regina, impedimento fore uotis rearis, si tibi dumtaxat huiusmodi inest affectus, nec nunci[i] opus erit, tantum fraus desit, dictis tantummodo concordet uoluntas, et quem adeo affectas presto pro uoto aderit." Illa autem ad hec iurante, id se uelle optabilius fieri quam audere profiteri, Nabaor Militem cum tunica armature ante eam duxit et rem ei pro qua uenerat pandit. Porro, ut superius ostensum est, ille, statura uirili decorus, exstabat aspectu quo se aspecciancium oculos in se pre decoris admiratione conuerteret. Quem uenientem regina salutans assidere fecit, diuque diligenter eum contemplata tandem lacrimis erumpentibus imo ex pectore suspiria protulit et quibus grauaretur erumpnis aperuit, eum sibi adiciens tantorum malorum posse conferre, si uellet, remedium. Et ille: "Si meum uelle posse comitaretur, nempe nullius in agendo more fieret dilacio. Sed patet regem numero et uirtute nobis prestare milicie et iccirco incertum est quis nos belli maneant exitus. Vnde, si quid calles, quod tuis uotis succedere, quod optatum negocium prospero possit fine terminare, innotesce nec me pigrum desidemue in exequendo aduertes." Ad que dum regina reticens pa[u]lulum que diceret cogitaret, Nabaor ait: "Minime te latet, O regina, regem coadunare exercitum contra hos ^[Fol. 29, col. 1.] dimicaturum, sub cuius frequentia maximam rebus agendis uideo adesse oportunitatem. Poteris enim, si eius tanta cura teneris, et hunc cum sociis ab instanti subtrahere periculo et tuum affectum adoptatum effectum perducere; regis quippe animus belli occupatus negociis minus de ceteris exstabit sollicitus. Manda igitur centurioni per hunc xl armis instructos huc

die postera clanculo per siluarum opaca delegare, ut sequente die, rege contra se ineunte certamen, te eam tradente, illi ciuitatem occupent, que igne incensa regi suisque horrandum spectaculum, illis autem uictorie causam prebeat." Illa uero que dicta sunt eum multis precibus peragere rogitat. Ensem regis preterea ac eius arma ei contulit aurea, de quibus fatatum erat quod ab eo deuictus rex regali spoliaretur apice qui preter ipsum ea primitus induisset. Auri quoque et argenti magnique gemmarum precii copiosa accumulauit munera insuper et amicie coniunxit federa. Quibus gestis, ad socios Miles cum tunica armature festinanter reuertitur, quos ab urbe educens diluculo ad centurionem peruenit; cum, dona sibi collata ostendens, que gesserat, uiderat, audierat, intimauit.

Centurio igitur ultra quam credi potest pro spe exhilaratus uictorie iussit milites qui ad reginam destinarentur eligi. Electis uero Odabal suum prefecit consanguineum, eumque ut caute et prouide sibi commissos duceret hortatus dimisit. Per^[Col. 2.]gentes itaque ad uineam, que regie confinis erat, die secunda iam uesperascente, peruenere, in qua iussu regine a Nabaor intromissi nocte tota latuere.

Mane autem illucescente, rex Milocrates contra centurionem conflicturus cum exercitu ciuitatem egreditur, cuius ante maiorem partem, suo fratre duce, hostes autem tergo inuasuram classe permiserat, ut utrimque bello circumdati cicius sibi cederent. At centurio, percognito eorum consilio, naues in continentem circum castra locauerat, ut etiam, si opus esset, ad se refugientibus forent munimini. Producit et ipse e castris miliciam, que parum ab ponto *tuto*¹ in loco constituerat, militesque turmas in v partitur, quarum medie ipsemet preficitur. Gradiebaturque distincte ex regis aduerso, quem xv milia armatorum stipabant acies. Sed quamuis numero roboreque precellerat, bellatorum spe tamen minime potiebatur uictorie, armis scilicet ablatis in quibus sui regnique constare tutelam nouerat. Que dum iturus ad prelia requireret et nequaquam inuenisset, omnis boni successus sibi spes menti

¹ Ms. tuo.

excidit, nec ea Militem cum tunica armature habere comperiit, donec ipsum illis indutum in campo pungnaturus aspexit. Ad quorum uisum nimis perteritus infremuit, quia hoc quod postea euenit sibi nimis uere ratus expauescebat. Non tamen ab incepto ualebat desistere, quia uel laudabiliter occumbere uel fortiter uincere sue uidebat glorie expedire.

Clangor igitur utrimque tubarum insonuit, quo et animis audacia et ^[Fol. 29b, col. 1.] hostes aggrediendi signum solet tribui. Manipularesque iam concurrere ceperant, dum ecce fumus de ciuitate in sullime euaporans quid in ea ageretur sui declarabat indicio. Vbi namque rex ad pungnam properans ab illa egressus est, confestim hii qui in insidiis morabantur surgentes illam sue dicioni mancipauerant ac eius suburbana, igne inmisso, accenderant. Flamma autem altiora petente, remocius positus iam ciuibus urbis patebat exit[i]um, ut etiam austro acte per pugnancium ora uolitant tarent fauille. Cor itaque regis pro imminente expauit discidio, atque, certamine inchoato postposito, succursum ire urbi festinabat.

[The following verses are written as prose in the ms.]

Agmina turbari telisque manus uacuari,
 Conspiceresque uage et consuluisse fuge.
 Mille uias ineunt, non est tamen una duobus;
 Sic hostes fugiunt ceu canis ora pecus.
 Instat et insequitur contraria pars fugientes,
 Et quos assequitur clade dat esse pares.
 Cautibus obruitur pars, pars punita recumbit;
 Que neutrum patitur, uincula dira luit.

Miles autem cum tunica armature dissipari fugarique subito hostium cuneos conspiciens, conglobato milite, insequitur, maximaque in eis strage *grassatur*,¹ quippe quos non solum flamma urbis conflagrans edificia terruerat, uerum etiam ipsa quam inierant fuga eos plurimum mente manuque dissolutos reddiderat. Dispersi itaque per conuexa moncium, per deuia siluarum, ceu grex lu^[Col. 2.]porum impetitus rabie, ad menia

¹ MS. *crassatur*.

tendebant, sineque intermissione ab insectancium punibantur gladiis. Milites quoque qui exteriorem urbis partem inflammauerat, fugientibus occurrentes, eos a menis arcebant et ad campum retorquentes in eorum quos fugiebant manus compellebant incidere. Fiebat utrimque horrenda cedes ipsaque sui impediabantur numerositate, ut nec ad fugam nec ad sui defensionem habiles haberentur. Mouebantur et absque uindice, ut uulgus inerme, nullusque petenti dextram dare dignatus est.

Tandem autem rex Milocrates, ubi se ab hostibus undique circumueniri conspexit, sibi fore duxit infame, si, nullo claro perpetrato facinore, occumberet. Dispersos itaque adunit in cuneum, sibiue insistentes uiriliter inuadens primo congressu aduersariorum refrenat impetum ac sibi compellit cedere. Dextraque quam plures propria puniens, ceteros ad fugam uertebat, donec Miles cum tunica armature, suos ab illo commilitones male tractari aduertens, admisso equo, obuiam fertur. Venientem rex Milocrates audacter excipit, inuicemque congressi uterque ab altero equo prosternitur. Ac Miles cum tunica armature cicius erectus iam surgere conantem, stricto mucrone, in regem irruit letalique affecisset uulnere, ni ictus ab obiecto cassaretur clipeo. Quem licet sit nulla secuta lesio *magna*,¹ tamen hebetacio peruenit cerebro, ut iterum relapsus unius hore spacio sopito iaceret similis. [Fol. 30, col. 1.] Quem secundo mucrone uolenti impetere probus iuuenis regis ei nepos occurrit, ac ore et manu minitans a leuo eques Militem cum tunica armature inuadit. Cuius incursus Miles cum tunica armature pedes a se scuto protectus repulit atque sibi fortuna oblatum amento intorquens iaculum, non umbo, non ferrea lorica obstitit, quin sub stomacho exceptum suis maiora minitantem uiribus cum selle carpella confoderet.

Illo denique prostrato, regem repetit, sed maiori quam existimauerat ab illo audacia exceptus est. Respiranti namque pudor et ira uires ministrauerat, pristina dignitatis

¹ ms. *magma*.

et probitatis eius ante mentis oculos reducentes memoriam, eumque ut se de inimicis ultum iret instimulauerant, se minime, ut quempiam plebeium, censentes penas soluendum, presertim dum sibi non ulla de sui erepcione spes suppeteret [quam] operam dare ne suis de se leta hostibus perueniret uictoria. Aduenientem igitur Militem cum tunica armature ipse prior impetit, gladio eiusque qua galea inmunita erat fronti uulnus inflixit, nique nasus qui a casside deorsum prominet fuisset presidio, una mortem intulisset cum uulnere. Miles cum tunica armature autem sauciatus mente effrenatur, timensque ne profluente uisus hebetaretur sanguine, sue ab illo penas exacturus iniurie, regem aggreditur, ac ensem obliquo ceruici ictu inferens *caput*¹ cum dextro ei prescidit brachio. Quo occumbente, hii cum eo [qui] ^[Col. 2.] restiterant fuga labuntur, in qua sue sola spes constabat salutis. At centurio, multitudini parcere uolens, tuba ne fugientes persequerentur militibus significari imperat, sciens, duce subacto, qui suberant sine prelio cessuros. Exin, hostium collectis spoliis, cum triumphali pompa urbem ingrediuntur fornixque eis exigitur. Quibus regina, neptis imperatoris, occurrens eos in regiam ducit atque bello plurimum fatigatos omni refouet diligencia. Occisis sepulturam, sauciis curam mandat adhiberi medele, omnibusque se munificentissimam exhibuit ac debitis omnes premiis remunerauit.

Centurio autem apud hanc insulam xv perhendingans² diebus patriam exercitui diripiendam permisit, principes et magistratus, quod cum hoste Romani populi consensissent, serratis carpentis transegit, populum graui condicione uectigalium multauit. Parteque milicie ibi ob tutandam insulam relictam, reginaque, nepte imperatoris, cum uiris electis ad uirum legitimum regem Illirie, a quo ui rapta fuerat, remissa, cunctis secum illius provincie assumptis militibus, classem cum sociis refectam ascendit, legacionem quam inceperat perfecturus. Cumque iam per undas equoreas iter confecisset diurnum,

¹ MS. *capud*.

² Cp. *Ducange* *under* *perhendingare* (= *morari*).

eccus (*sic*) regis Milocratis germanus, cuius *regnum*¹ obtinuerat, cum classe non minima occurrit. Missus quippe a rege [Fol. 30b, col. 1.] Milocrate, ut prefatum est, antequam bellum ageretur, oppres[s]um classem centurionis fuerat, ut utrimque circumdatus et terra et mari sibi obstrueretur refugium. Sed ad stolum, ad stationem uidelicet nauium centurionis ueniens nec naues nec eius repererat exercitum. Parum quippe remotius ab equore castra munierat, ea extrinsecus quoquouersus prora (*sic*) ad sui statuentes munimen. Existimans autem rex Egesarius—sic etenim dicebatur frater regis Milocratis—eos fugisse, uerso remige, in alto defertur equore, quo tumidis triduo iactatus fluctibus, dum hostia repetere disponderet, undique procellis surgentibus, ad longius remotas prouincias itinere dierum v appulsus est. Sed² iam se aura lenius redibat agente ac medio in pelago centurionis classi habetur obuius.

Fortuitu autem ipse centurio in turre quam loco propugnaculi in puppe erexerat, Milite cum tunica armature assidente, residebat, pelagi late uisu ambiens spacia. Et primitus quidem simulacra contemplatus est que ad galli aut ad alicuius rei speciem composita malis imponuntur, ad experiendum uidelicet quo flabro agatur carina. Cuicumque namque parti mundi climatum flatus uergitur, semper ei aduersa fronte obsunt. Hec igitur malo inuexa, dum nunc ad altiora, nunc ad inferiora aura agente pellerentur, uexilla ceyces ratus, gubernatorem nauis aduocat atque “Heus!” inquit, “ut opinor, nobis tempestas ualida imminet. En namque, ut ille uolucres pennis applaudentes orbiculatim per inania cursus dirigunt, quasi futurorum prescie sua prelibant gaudia, nostra earum ingluuiei predam fore cadauera ferunt, quippe, imminente procella, aues huiusmodi tum gregatim tum separatim circa remigantes crebros girando exercere [solent] uolatus earumque gestus cladem portendere futuram.” Miles autem cum tunica armature tunc ei assistens et rem ut erat intelligens “Tua te” ait, “domine, fallit opinio. Aues namque non sunt quas te credis cernere sed signa summitatibus malorum

¹ MS. regum.² MS. set.

apposita. Sciasque procul dubio classem aduentare hostilem, iam dudum a rege tuis subiugato uiribus nos persecutum missam. Forsitan quippe aliqua tempestate urgente externam coacti sunt petere regionem, quod usque ad presens sibi more causa exstitit. Nunc uero, suis uotis aura fauente, redeunt. Militibus itaque arma capere impera nec nos aduersarii inermes repperiant."

Ad imperium igitur centurionis qui in illa naue habebantur armantur, ceterisque carinis—nam xxx erant, xv scilicet quas illo adduxit et totidem quas a subacta insula prioribus adiunxit—idem faciendi dant signa tibicines. Ordinantur que a fronte, que a dextra uel leua hostes inuadant, que etiam quasi insidiando circumueniant. Quinque autem quas rostratas habebat, in quarum prima ipse erat, [Fol. 31, col. 1.] in fronte constituit, subito lintres aduenientes aggressuras hostiles. Hoc quidem nauium genere piratici maxime nauale exercentes prelium utuntur, cuius uis tam immanis est, ut quaecumque ratem impeterit a summa usque ad inferiorem pro[s]cindat tabulam. Idcirco uero rostrate dicuntur, quod omne spacium inter proram et carinam eminens ferro tegitur, cristam aduncis premunitam ferreis habens in longitudine priori, autem in uertice ferrea gerunt capita ad modum galli cristatis rostris munita. Eriguntur quoque propugnacula quibus uiri imponuntur fortissimi, inpugnancium impetum a summo refrenaturi saxis et iaculis. Onerarie autem puppes retro locantur, ut, si milite instructe cederent, saltem uel ipse manus diripiencium effugerent.

Omnibus itaque, ut expediebat, dispositis, iactatis anchoris, aduentum opperiebatur hostium. Jamque inimica classe apparente, dictis Militis cum tunica armature uisus fidem prebebat eumque insinuabat non falsum opinatum fuisse. Cateruatim et *ipsi*¹ classem distinguunt nec minori astucia singula tali discrimini necessaria preuident. Miles autem cum tunica armature, eos ad bella paratos appropinquare intuens,² * * * confestim sublatiis anchoris solui, uentisque

¹ MS. ipse.

² Word following undecipherable.

uela committens ipsas remis iubet impelli, atque, exercitu per transtra et tabulata disposito, prior in liburnum quo dux hostium uehebatur irruit. Cuius prorum ^[Col. 2.] una cum carina confrigens impetu inmodicum adusque malum ictum perduxit, quod, rostro impingente, fractum undas compulit oppetere uertice. Assunt et alie rates Militi cum tunica armature presidio quassatamque nauem circumdant, et, licet se strenue defensarent, repugnantes opprimunt. E quibus quosdam inuoluunt fluctibus, quosdam securibus obtruncant et gladiis. Reliquam autem partem uinelis edomant, atque, uiriliter pungnante ne uiuus hostium manibus incideret perempto principe, opes et exuias diripiunt phaselumque pelago submergunt.

Post horum autem perniciem Miles cum tunica armature audacius in superstites progreditur. A quibus cum clamore et iunctis uiribus exceptus circumdatur atque a suis secretus quoquouersus ualde impugnatur. Missilium iactu aera obfuscarumque multitudine freti superficiem operiri uideres. Hinc et inde ingens caucium moles uoluebatur, quorum strepitus non minus horroris quam discriminis efficiebat. Omni telorum instant genere, ratem Militis cum tunica armature uiolare intentes, sed singule sibi tabule laminis incastrate ferreis nullius ictibus soluebantur, licetque tantis hostium stiparetur cuneis, non tamen minora patrabat quam paciebatur facinora. Cuius ubi hostes animaduertere pertinaciam eumque malle mori quam uinci nec uiribus eum posse submitti nec cedere tutum instanti, piram,¹ ignem uidelicet Grecum, eius in lintrem iaculati sunt.

^[Fol. 31b, col. 1.] Diuersis autem modis fit ignis huiusmodi. Ac cuius uis ad peragenda quibus adhibetur negocia maior pertinaciorque existit, hoc ordine conficitur. Hii quibus illum conficiendi pericia est uas primitus aptant eneum et quot uoluerint rubetas accipiunt atque in eo carne columbina et melle per iii menses alunt. Quo spacio completo, biduo uel

¹ Obviously an attempt to Latinize Greek *πῦρ*.

triduo ipsos inpastos relictos lacte proleque fete mammis alicuius bestie applicant, cuius lac tam diu sugendo ebibunt donec ultro saturi decident. Tumentes autem uenenifero liquore, rogo subposito, imponuntur uasculo. Quibus et chelindri serpentes adhibentur aquatici quos denis ante diebus busto inclusos humanum pauerit cadauer. Est et *aspis*¹ *uenenifera*² atque mortifera tria uno in gutture gerens capita, cuius nomen menti excidit, animal uenenosum quicquid attigerit irremediabili peste corrumpens. Tellus namque eius ad tactum herba et segete, unda piscibus, arbores destituuntur fructibus, et unum magis mirandum est: si uel minutissima stilla arborem, cuiuslibet grossitudinis sit, infecerit, more cancri corrodens, quo loco ce[ci]derit per medium consumpto, humi sternit. Nullam huic cladi medelam obesse posse compertum est, quin homines et pecudes, si uel saltim cutis superficiem attigerit, in talia penetrans statim perimat. Vis cuius quanta sit e flamma eius ab ore euaporante maxime [Col. 2.] potest perpendi, qua, dum ipsa maiori estu uritur, sepius quam inhabitat silua inflammatur. E sanie autem eius ab triplici rictu profluente tres herbe gignuntur, scilicet ex singulis singule. Quarum primam, siquis cibo uel potu sumpserit, mente mutata, in rabiem vertitur, secunda una cum gustu se necem infert gustanti, terciæ uero succus se potatum aut unctum regis morbo inficit. Hec autem ubi adoleuerunt gramina, infamis ipsa, si inuenerit, deposcitur bellua. Capta quoque, antequam prefato adhibeatur negotio, illarum per septimanam impinguatur pabulo. Fel quoque et testiculi lupi non desunt ambigui, qui uento et aura progenitus quicquid attigerit tacte rei in se figuram accipit. Calculus autem ligurius orbe in extremo repertus non minimum inter cetera locum optinet, eadem qua et ipse uirtute preditus, e cuius concreta urina peruenire creditur. Lincis namque nil obstat obtutibus, ut etiam cis consistens materiam quid citra agatur certo contempletur lumine. *Caput*³ etiam cor et iecur cornicis nouena metite secula horum uires adauctum adiciun-

¹ MS. asspis.² MS. uenenifa.³ MS. capud.

tur. Sulphur autem pix et resina, oleum cartarum et bitumen minime adimuntur predictis, que quem adhibite flamme cito feruorem corripuiunt sero deponunt.

Hec igitur ubi collecta fuerint, quo retuli ordine, cacabo ex ere includuntur purissimo locataque usque ad *os*¹ uasis *rufi*² hominis draconisque superfunduntur cruore. Sanguini quippe [Fol. 32, col. 1.] *rufi*² ignea natura inesse creditur, quod et color pili et que maxime in huiusmodi uigere solet uiuacitas patenter ostendit ingenii. Iuuentus autem cui barba et cesaries *rufa*³ fuerit, eiusdem coloris impetigines faciem asperserint, pulcro inducitur thalamo omniumque apparatu dapium unius mensis delicate impinguatur spacio. Singulis quoque diebus, foco ante eum accenso, ad auctum sanguinem (*sic*) uino inebriatur sed seditule a femineis seruatur amplexibus. Mense uero expleto, in medio domus hinc et inde ad eius longitudinem igniti sternuntur carbones, inter quos ipse cibo potuque inpurgitatus, depositis indumentis, exponitur ac more ueruum utique in latere ad ignem uersatur. Sufficiens autem calefactus, iamque uenis toto turgentibus corpore, flebotomatur, scilicet utriusque brachii fibris ex transuerso incisis. Interim uero dum sanguinem minuit, ad refocillandam mentem offas in uino accipit, ne, illa debilitata uel in extasi rapta, liquor concreatur (*sic*) optatus. Tam diu autem sanguis effluere sinitur, donec eius defeccio mortem inducens animam corpore eiciat. Et primum quidem cruore draconis admixto per se calefit diutissime, dein ceteris superfusus omnia simul confundit.

Si autem queritur quomodo draco prendatur, uiri eliguntur fortissimi qui prius eius qua latitat scrutentur [Col. 2.] cauer-
nam, inuentaue, per girum eius aditus soporifera gramina uariis sternunt aromatibus tincta. Quorum terre hiatum exiens dum draco *fragranciam*⁴ sentit, ea auide consumens, statim sopore opprimitur ac ab insidiantibus tuto in loco non eminus abditis circumuentus obtruncatur. A quibus eius una

¹ MS. hos.² MS. ruffi.³ MS. rufa.⁴ MS. flagranciam.

cum gemma draconcia asportatur, quam eius *eliso*¹ excutiunt cerebro, et hinc multimodis adhibenda [est] negociis.

Vas autem in quo hec considencia sunt tripes est, cuius ansato summitas artis preartatur faucibus, cooperculum ex ere habens. Quo, dum clauditur, ita sibi utrumque incastratur,² ut nec uel modicus uapor inde euaporet fumi. Omnibus uero illi impositis, ignis confestim supponitur, atque, vii continuis diebus totidemque noctibus pice naptaque flamme iniectis, ut magis ferueat, ebullitur. Fit quoque et uirga aerea, cuius curuata summitas ad modum clepsedre coaptatur, qua paruum foramen quod in uasis cooperculi patet uertice vi prioribus obturatur diebus. Septima autem die flamma in cacabo accensa, inmanis strepitus, ac si terre motus fieret, intro auditur, aut si eminus positus feruentis pelagi aure murmura percipias. Succense autem flamme ubi notum minister signum perceperit, clepsedram exterius peracer[r]imo perfundit aceto, cuius soliditatem penetrans iam nitentis erumpere flamme restringit impetum.

Folles autem quante suffecerint quibus [Fol. 32b, col. 1.] ignis abdatur parantur aeneae, quarum incastrature² ita sibi anfracte compaginantur, ut serius hec flamma quam que e ligno et corio fiunt uenti *penetrentur*³ afflatu. Sed et adeo exstant tractabiles ut magis e corio *quam*⁴ aere composita crederes. Flamma itaque iniecto aceto a suo feruore cohibita, clepsedra eximitur atque ductilis calamus in folle preminens foramini uasis apponitur. Cuius attractu aure ignis a cacabo exhauritur. Statim, ne exeat os calami, clepsedra obturatur. Sic et in ceteris ignis seruandus recipitur. Pars uero parua in cacabo relinquitur cui cotidie fomes qua nutriatur adhibenda. Nec non et folium in medio ad modum fenestrule parua habentur foramina, per que ne extinguatur flamma alitur.

¹ ms. elisio.

² Cp. *Ducange*, Incastraturae: "Incastratura, incavatura, lignorum per quam sibi mutuo copulantur, scilicet in extremitatibus asserum runcinatorum," etc.

³ ms. penetrantur.

⁴ ms. que.

Hoc ordine ignis Grecus paratur. Quem quid ualere si queris, nulla est tam fortis machina, nulla tam magna carina, ad quas, si iaculetur, quin latus utrumque omnia consumens obstancia penetret. Nec ullo modo ualet extinguui, donec materia quam consumat defecerit. Quodque magis obstupendum est, etiam inter undas ardet, et si igni admisceatur communi, se semper uno in globo continens, eundem *uelut*¹ *ligna*² depopulabitur.

Igitur, ut superius dictum est, ubi hostes Militem cum tunica armature armis inuincibilem experti sunt, vnus eorum follem qua infaustus ignis serua^[Col. 2.] batur arripuit, atque, calamo dempta clepsadra, eius unam e tabulis leua deprimens, alteramque dextra eleuans, eas ab inuicem compressit conamine ignemque eiacularans centurianam eo ratem, iiii remigantibus ustis, per medium penetrat. Nec mora, tota flamma corripitur, unde non paruus ei insidentibus metus incutitur; interius quippe flamma, exterius septi hostibus, quid agerent ignorabant, nec se defensandi nec ulciscendi dabatur copia. Si fuge uellent consulere, nec undis nec aduersariis se tutum erat committere. In naui autem remanentibus mors nihilominus intentabatur. Miles autem cum tunica armature, considerans rem, nisi quantocius succurreretur, sibi ad irremediabile periculum uergere omniaque uirtutis uiriumque pensari examine, resumpto uigore, uni sibi insistentium naui armatus insilit, et quosdam obtruncans, quosdam inuoluens fluctibus, socios triplici ereptos infortunio, scilicet flammaram globis, undarum naufragio, hostiumque furori, illi transponit. Accriorique ira succensus, coadunata classe, protinus se ultum properat, denisque submersis, *myoparonas*³ xxx^{ta} hostium eneruata uirtute abducit.

Nauali tandem non sine maximo discrimine confecto prelio, quod reliquum erat itineris prospere peragunt, Ierosolimam tempore statuto incolumes perueniunt. Qui, incredibili cunctorum fauore suscepti, defatigata membra tum terre marisque operoso itinere cum multiplici periculorum ^[Fol. 33, col. 1.] et

¹ MS. velud.² MS. lingna.³ MS. myopacontas.

preliorum discrimine quiete et ocio delicatius et indulgencius recrearunt. Ad quos interim ualida bellatorum coadunantur agmina et a finitimis extraneisque principibus militum destinatur copia. Jubent et ipsi per omnem regionem milites eligi, urbes et oppida locis opportunis, firmis muris altisque turribus circumdari; uiris fortissimis, omni telorum apparatu, re frumentaria pabuloque sufficienti in expeditionem pugne muniri. Fiebatque cotidie per diuersas sanctorum memorias communis ab uniuersis ad dominum seditate oracio, oracionique ieiuniorum elemosinarumque *continuabat*¹ deuocio, ut sibi famulantibus optatum conferret triumphum et aduersarios maneret excidium.

Prefixus interea dies duelli illuxerat, armatorumque Christianorum uidelicet et paganorum utrimque innumerabilis exercitus consertis cuneis, duo, ut pactum fuerat, armis septi agoniste certatim in medio prodeunt. Hinc Miles cum tunica armature, cuius animi audacia, uirtus prolata, probitas assueta, uincendi consuetudo et iustior causa socios spe exhilarabat triumphum. Alius autem, partis aduerse, Gormundi uocabulo, procera membra, inmanis statura, truculenta facies, et bellorum frequentia, singularis omnium estimata fortitudo, armorum horror et strepitus sibi cessurum spondere uidebantur tropheum. Pedites uero uterque processerunt, quia ob eius inmoderatam altitudinem nullus equus Gormundum ad^[Col. 2.]mittere sessorem ualebat. Obiectis igitur clipeis collatisque dextris, audaciter adinuicem congregiuntur, et quantum uis suppetit quantasque ira uires administratur alter alterum stricto mucrone impetit. Mille ictus ingeminant, mille modis mutue cedi mutisque insistent uulneribus. Feriunt et feriuntur, pellunt et propelluntur, rotaque fortune uario casu inter eos uersatur. Nil quid (*sic*) uirtutis et fortitudinis sit prossus relinquitur, cunctorumque obtutus in eos infiguntur. Quis promcior ad feriendum, fortiorue ad *paciendum*² ignoratur, inter quos tam crebri ictus tamque graues sine temporis intercapedine diuidebantur colaphi, ut quis

¹ MS. continuebat.² MS. paciundum.

daret uel acciperet difficile posset aduerti. Vter uiribus pocior haberetur nescires, dum, quo magis pungne insisterent, eo ualencioribus animis ad certamen inhiarent. Modo lepidis cauillationibus suos ictus insererunt, modo *cinedis*¹ salibus suorum uicissim mentes exasperant, modo *anheli*² se *retrahunt*,³ modo aura concepta recreati acriores concurrunt. Recreatisque uiribus, feruenciori impetu copulantur, et quasi ab eis nichil antea actum sit effere, mentes efferacius debachantur. Videres eos conf[li]ctando aduersum se consistere quemadmodum duos apros ferocissimos in singulari certamine, qui nunc adunco dente se obliquo ictu impetunt, nunc latera collidunt, nunc pedes pedibus p[er]oterunt, quorum rictus interim modo fumida spuma oblinat, modo ignis erumpens ignescit. [Fol. 33b, col. 1.] Altero siquidem uirilium instante, hic cedens longius propellitur; russus, isto preualente, ille retrogradi cogitur. Hic quasi insidiando uulnus inferre molitur. Ille, si quid ensis pateat acumini, sedule rimatur, sed alter conamen alterius haud impari calliditate deludit et cassat. Armorum quoque fragor longius perstrepat, eorumque soliditas mucronum aciem hebetat et retundit. Ex quorum etiam collisione flamma crebrius prosiluit et ob inmoderatum laborem salsus per omnes artus a uertice usque ad plantas sudor decurrit. Incertumque erat cui uictoria cederet, dum utrorumque uires quisque equales pensaret. Mira igitur uirtute miraque probitate ea die ab *utroque*⁴ pungnatum est, certamineque ab hora diei prima usque ad occiduum protracto, nil actum est quo uel alter prefereretur alteri aut palma ascriberetur alicui. Vesperascente itaque uulnorum penitus expertes segregantur, iterum in crastinum pungnaturi, iterumque luctamen ex integro iniciaturi.

Aurora uero oriente, bifaria acie galeate phalanges conueniunt suosque luctatores in harenam producunt. Concurritur, conclamatur, in alterius necem quisque grassatur. Iteratur punгна maiori certamine, quia, quo magis uirtutem fuerat alter expertus alterius, eo se contra caucius agebat et forcius,

¹ MS. cinedis.² MS. haneli.³ MS. retrahuntur.⁴ MS. utque.

pudebatque se uel ad modicum sibi alterutro cedere [Col. 2.] quos equi roboris omnium arbitrio constabat comprobatos fuisse. Quorum si ea die conflictum te contigisset aspicere, eos hesterna iurares luisse maximeque admiracione obstupesceres quomodo ad tam crebros ictus, ad tam graues *colaphos*,¹ uel mucronum acumen sine obtusione durare uel armorum soliditas inuiolata manere aut certe ipsi infessi insauciique tam diu quiuissent subsistere. Eo quippe uigore eoque ualore gladii galeis infligebantur, clipeis contundebantur, ut ex scintillis prorumpentibus aera chorusarent sibiue *collisum*² *chalybs*³ *chalybem*⁴ repelleret dissilentemque in eum a quo uibrabatur retorqueret. Crebris afflatibus aera uexant, pila pilis et ictus ictibus obicientes. Vnanimiter insistent, pugnam acerrimam ingerunt ardoremque pugnandi prelia protracta conferunt. Pectora pectoribus protendunt omnique nisu inuadere et resistere nituntur. Audaciam unius animositatis alterius prouocat et *pertinacia*⁵ illius huius animi tenorem strenuiorem reddebat. Alternis uiribus alterna uirtus fomenta prebebat et utriusque uigor se metitus ex altero proficiebat. Plurimum autem diei pari fortuna inter eos expensum est, donec Miles cum tunica armature, quiddam callide machinatus, dum se Gormundum super leuum genu fingeret uelle percutere et Gormundus eo loco eream peltam opponeret ipse, dextra ad dextram altius [Fol. 34, col. 1.] conuersa, ei ore in medio, quod nudum patebat, ensis cuspidem inopinate ingessit, *iiii*^{or} que prioribus extusis dentibus, ei leuam confregit maxillam. Leue tamen uulnus erat et quod potius ad irritamentum furoris quam ad doloris stimulos illatum uideretur, ut saucii uires [quam] incolumis ampliori insania feruescerent. Gormundus itaque, furore cum inflixo concepto uulnere et more se dementis agens, nil exclamat ulterius: uiribus parcendum est. Vt fera igitur bellua in Militem cum tunica armature insurgit, brachioque in sullimi erecto, tanta fortitudine scuto macheram inpressit, ut ordo gemmarum insertus frustratim

¹ MS. calaphos.³ MS. calebs.⁵ MS. pertinaciam.² MS. collisam.⁴ MS. calibem.

conquassatus diffunderet, umbonem auelleret summitatemque clipei, usque ad sanguinis effusionemque eius fronti illideret. Senior et Miles cum tunica armature eum excipit seuciacque duplicata seuius res agitur iamque negotium ad discrimen uergitur. Miles autem cum tunica armature, nactus locum, in inmunitum hostis latus stricto mucrone irruit. Sed Gormundo ictum callente et euitante, dum eius conatus cassatur, ensis ab obiecto egide exceptus scapulo tenus abrumpitur. Nec eris soliditas duriciaue ictus immensitatem ferre potuit, quin erea parma Gormundi contrita per mediumque sub umbone confracta minutas dissiliret in partes. Vniuersi ex hoc confestim exercitus clamor immensus exoritur, hinc merencium, illinc insultantium. Maius quippe discriminis [Col. 2.] Militi cum tunica armature incumberebat, cui uel quo se defensaret aut a se hostem abigeret, ense colliso, nil prossus aderat. Gormundo autem licet clipeum obuenuisset comminui, mucro tamen integer habebatur, cuius *rigida*¹ *incipitique*² acie aduersarii sui *tempora*³ sine intermissione contundebat. Miles uero cum tunica armature aduersus eius impetus clipeum quoquoersus callide protendebat, sed nisi cicius Phebus occidens finem bello posuisset, maxima procul dubio dispendia incurrisset. Meta etenim assignata fuerat, quam mox ubi occidentis solis umbra attigisset, omni occasione dilacioneque postposita, eos segregari debere ratum manebat. Umbra igitur metam attingente, inuitis paganis et se uix a sedicione continentibus, dirimuntur, quodque duelli restabat diem in posterum protelatur.

Noctis opaca solare iubar fugauerat, et, conglomeratis e diuerso agminibus, campigeni se *stagnati*⁴ renouatis armis truculenti ingerunt. Perosum quippe et pene exiciale litigium inter utrumque exercitum exorsum fuerat, utrum Militi cum tunica armature gladius, Gormundo clipeus, aut utrique uel neutri seu certe uni et non alter[i] concederetur. Super qua re dissensione diu habita magnisque altercacionibus uentilata, omnium in hoc tandem conuenit assensus, equum fore,

¹ MS. regida.² MS. incipitique.³ MS. tempora.⁴ MS. stagnati.

ambobus annui, quia nec iste sine ense se defendere nec ille, eliso clipeo, ab hostili erumpcione [Fol. 34b, col. 1.] se ualebat protegere. Ordinatis igitur, ut caraxatum est, utrimque nodis peditum et turmis equitum, ceterorumque armatorum conferta multitudine, duelligeri loricis crispantes, galeis cristati, uisu horrendi, stadium petunt, aleam belli ineunt, sese ad pungnam lacescunt manuque preualida inuadunt et assiliunt. Nec mora, tonitrus belli intonuit, offensio armorum perstrepuuit, sonitus ictuum efferbuit et ignita collisio terribiliter excaudit. Preduro ludo res agitur, dumque sagacius pungnant, obstinacius perseuerant, tinnitu horribili aer resultat et resonat, aereque percusso montium concaua stridorem multiplicant. Horrenda belli facies, nulla quies fessis [nulla] respiracio dabatur *anhelis*.¹ Omnimodis insistunt, omnimodis operam adhibent, ut eorum alter aut succumbat aut uictoria pociatur. Nec estuantis solis feruor impediuit nec iugis labor uel decertacio obfuit, quin semper procaciores insisterent seque mutuo semper inexsuperabiliores offenderent. Atque sub armis facientes audacia animabantur animositateque recreabantur. Horum si spectaculo assisteres, Laphitarum (*sic*) pungna tibi in mentem occurreret, qui quociens ictus ingeminaba[n]t, tociens Ciclopum incudes malleis contundi crederes. Cumque plurimum diei transisset, cepit Gormundus tum estu tum hostis assidua uexacione [Col. 2.] estuari aggrauataque est pungna in eum uehementer totumque honus prelii ei incubuit. Animo igitur dilitescebat ac segnius et inualidus agebat sensimque se subtrahens inpugnanti cedebat nec ea qua ante uirtute uel se tuebatur *aut*² hostem aggrediebatur. Quod Miles cum tunica armature aduertens instancius instabat anxiumque spiritum illius anxiozem reddebat. Nec destitit, donec extra circuli quo cingebatur limitem eum propelleret. Hic tumultus et gemitus, ululatus et pla[n]ctus incredule gentis ad sidera tollitur cateruatimque mesti ad eum proclamabant: "Gormunde, regredere! Gormunde, regredere! quid agis? quo refugis, miles egregie? Fugare, non fugere, tibi hactenus

¹ MS. *hanelis*.² MS. *aud*.

moris exstitit! Regredere, proh dolor! regredere! nec in ultimo dedecus omnia ante *bene*¹ gesta facinora obnubilet. Fuge hic locus non est! uinci aut uincere hic necessarium est!" Ad quorum uoces Gormundus, pudore consternatus paulumque respirans et animatus, forcius gressum fixit, infestantem aduersarium uiriliter abegit. Vibransque gladium eiusmodi ictum intulit quo complicatis membris eum succumbere ac mole ictus genuflexo terram compelleret petere, verum thorax impenetrabilis mansit. Tunc Miles cum tunica armature, mente nimium efferatus, concitus se erexit, totus infremuit, sese in armis collegit, dextram [Fol. 35, col. 1.] excussit ac "Hic *ictus*"² exclamat "nostrum ludum dirimet!" Summatique eius cassidis ancipitem *romphee*³ aciem imprimens, iam armis calefactis et ob hoc non resistentibus, usque ad imum pectus, omnia comminuens confringens et penetrans, ictum conduxit, non optabile stomacho antidotum. Ac ensem uulneri eximens, duas sectum in partes *caput*⁴ abscidit, cerebroque effluente, uictor pede eminus a se pepulit. Quo superato et crudeliter trucidato, pagani cum interminabili merore ultimum super eo *questum*⁵ et luctum continuarunt, iamque armis correptis ob eius ulcionem in Militem cum tunica armature irruissent, ni *sanctis*⁶ inter se uetarentur legibus.

Per se igitur, suo propugnatore neci dedito, iuxta condictas condiciones federis Romane se dicioni dedere, paceque firmata et obsidibus datis, multa quoque uectigalium imposita, ad propria confusi remearunt. Miles uero cum tunica armature splendide et uictoriosissime adeptus tropheum multisque ab obtimatibus Ierosolimitanis honoratus muneribus Romam mature rediit triumphalique pompa ab imperatore et senatu susceptus est. Quem imperator in numero familiarium suorum decernens, quoad primum locum repperisset, eum summo sullimare honore meritaque destinauit dignitate donare.

¹ MS. dare.³ MS. rumphee.⁵ MS. questrum.² MS. hictus.⁴ MS. capud.⁶ MS. sanctitis.

Hiis ita gestis nulloque contra Ro^[Col. 2.]manum imperium arma presumente mouere, Miles cum tunica armature, pacem fastiditus miliciamque qua sua uirtus et probitos exercebatur semper affectans, studiose querere cepit quenam regio belli tumultibus turbaretur. Cui dum famosum nomen Arturi sui auunculi regis Britannie nec tamen sibi noti eiusque insignia rerum gesta, que iam toto orbe diuulgabantur, relata fuissent, paruipendens uniuersa que sibi ab imperatore * * * * sepe sepiusque suppliciter flagitauit. Ac imperator, quamquam eum ad condignum promouere apicem iam proposuerat tantique uiri *discessus*¹ sibi dampno fore non dubitaret, ut tamen a quibus originem ducere (*sic*) scire ualeret, nec non et per eum se regnum Britannie, quod a Romanis diu discederat, adepturum confidens, annuit quod petiuit. Opulenta igitur preclara et preciosa ei donaria largitus est thecamque qua ipsius generis continebantur indicia regi Arturo perferenda tradidit, adiunctis suis apicibus quibus testabatur omnia que carte monimenta dicebant rata et firma constare. Vetuitque ne loculum inspiceret, antequam ad regem Arturum uenisset. Mandauit etiam primatibus Gallie per quos *transiturus*² erat, ut eum honorifice susciperent, seruirent, necessaria ei ministrarent et per fines suos usque oceanum saluum deducerent. Sicque, uale dicto, discessit, rege relicto.

Miles itaque cum tunica armature, omnibus eius ^[Fol. 35b, col. 1.] discessum grauitur ferentibus, propositum iter arripuit, Alpes transsiit, Galliasque transgressus Britanniam incolumis attingit. Cui quo eo tempore rex Arturus regeret percuntanti responsum est, eum apud Carlegion urbem in Demecia perhendinare, quam pre ceteris ciuitatibus frequentare consueuerat. Illa quippe nemoribus consita, feris fecunda, opibus opulenta, pratorum uiriditate amenaque irrigatione fluminum Osce scilicet et Sabrine decora gratissimum penes se habitandi locum prebeat. Illic metropolis habebatur *Demecie*,³ illic legiones Romanorum hiemare solebant, illic rex Arturus festa

¹ MS. discensus.² MS. transsiturus.³ MS. Dernicie.

celebrabat solempnia, diademate insigniebatur, uniuerse primorum Britannie ad eum conuentus coadunabantur. Quo Arturum manere Miles cum tunica armature cognito illo uiam direxit, illo, nec die nec nocte labori indulgens, properare animo intendit. Dum autem quadam nocte in cuius sequenti die ad urbem Legionum peruenturus erat pergeret, inopina et inmanis procella uisque uentorum cum pluuiâ apud Usce oppidum, quod ab urbe vi miliaris distabat, ei ingruit, cuius nimietate omnes ipsius socii aut deuiarent aut eum prosequi nequirent.

Eadem autem nocte rex Arturus cum sua coniuge regina Gwendoloena thoro recubans, quia ob noctis diuturnitatem sibi sompnus erat fastidio, de multis adinuicem [Col. 2.] sermoninabantur. Erat quidem Gwendoloena regina cunctarum feminarum pulcher[r]ima sed ueneficiis imbuta, ut multociens ex suis sortilegiis communicaretur futura. Inter ceteras igitur cum rege confabulationes "Domine," ait "tu te de tua probitate nimium gloriaris et extollis neminemque tibi uiribus parem existimas?" Arturus "Ita est" ait; "nonne et tui animus idem de me sentit?" Regina: "Nempe hac ipsa noctis hora quidam miles e Roma ueniens per Usce municipium huc cursum tendit, quem uirtute et fortitudine tibi eminere ne dubites. Sonipedi residet cui uigore, ualore decoreue alter equiparari non poterit. Arma ei sunt impetrabilia nec est qui ad ferientis dextram subsistat. Et, ne me friuola arbitreris asserere, signum rei habeto, quod anulum aureum et iii myriadas (*sic*) cum equis duobus eum mihi summo mane missurum tibi prenuncio." Arturus autem, eam se nunquam in huiusmodi presagiis fefellisse recogitans, rem probare, ea tamen ignorante, statuit. Consuetudinis enim habebat, quod, statim ubi aliquem strenuum uirum aduenire audisset, se illi obuium daret, ut mutuus congressus ualidorem ostenderet.

Paulo ergo post regina sopita, surrexit, cornipedem armatus ascendit, abiit, Kaium tantummodo suum dapiferum uie habens comitem. Occurrit Militi cum tunica armature ad quendam

riuulum plu^[Fol. 36, col. 1.]uialibus undis inundatum subsistenti. Iuxta quem uadi querens transitum moram parum uerberat; tetra quippe noctis deceptus caligine profundi fluminis alneum autumarat. Quem Arturus ex armore splendore animaduertens; "Cuias es," exclamat "qui hanc noctis silencio ober[r]as patriam? Exulne es, predo an insidiator?" Cui Miles cum tunica armature: "Erro quidem ut uiarum inscius sed nec exulis me fuga agitat nec predonis rapina instigat nec fraus insidiantis occultat." Arturus: "Loquacitate uiceris; nosco uersuciam tuam; e tribus que predixi te unum calleo. Ni igitur quantocius,¹ depositis armis, te mihi ultro tradideris, me tue absque mora nequicie uindicem sencies." Et ille: "Vecordis et timidi animi est, qui ante bellum fugam inierit aut qui priusquam necessitas *exegerit*² se aduersario submiserit. Si autem meorum armorum adeo teneris cupidus, eorum obtestor uirtutem, te ipsa duris comparaturum colaphis." Hoc autem modo uerbis inter eos ad minas et contumelias prurumpentibus, Arturus furore exasperatus, quasi riuum iam transiturus et in eum irruiturus, equum calcaribus ad cursum coegit. Cui Miles cum tunica armature obuius factus protensa ac demissa lancea in ipso *transitu*³ eum impulit et mediis undis, uersis uestigiis, deiecit sonipedemque ad se cursu delatum per lora corripuit. Successit Kaius dapifer uin^[Col. 2.]dicaturus dominum suum, et, admisso equo, cum Milite cum tunica armature congreditur, sed eodem pacto et ipse super Arturum in una congerie primo ictu prosternitur. Equum autem eius Miles cum tunica armature, inuexa haste cuspide, ad se detraxit; ipsos uero incolumes noctis seruauit obscuritas. Quique equites illuc uenerant domum pedites cum non paruo dedecore redierunt. Arturus uero cubile repetiit. Quem regina Gwendoloena frigore rigidum et totum cum imbre cum riui undis madefactum quo tam diu moratus complutusque fuisset interrogat. Arturus: "Afforis in curia tumultum ac si certancium percepi, ad quos

¹ Written twice in ms.² ms. erigerit.³ ms. transsitus.

egressus in eos pacando moram feci nimboque ingruente me contigit complui." Regina: "Sit ut dicis; verum quo abieris quidne actum sit in crastinum nuncius propalabit."

Miles autem cum tunica armature, flu[u]jolum minime transgressus nec cum quibus habuisset conflictum conscius, ad quendam uicinum pagum diuertit ibique hospitatus est. Summo uero diluculo ad Urbem Legionum tetendit. A qua duobus miliariis quendam nactus puerum cui familiaretur interrogat. Cui puer "Regine" ait "exsto nuncius, cuius archana proferre mandata mihi incumbit officium." Et ille "Faciesne" ait "quod tibi iniunxero?" Puer: "Presto sum quod placuerit." Miles cum tunica armature "Hos" ait "duos sume ^[Fol. 36b, col. 1.] sonipedes et eos mei ex parte deduc regine utque mee probitatis insigne gratanter accipiat in pignore rogita amicie." Anulum etiam aureum cum iii aureis eidem deferendum proferens suum nomen edidit seque e uestigio eum prosecuturum intimauit. Nuncius autem que sibi iniuncta sunt exequitur. Aureos accepit cornipedesque secum abduxit.

Gwendoloena autem regina, ut futuri prescia, in arcis prupto stabat culmine, uiam prospectans que ad Usce ducebat oppidum. Que duos equos cum suis adducentem *phaleris*¹ suum eminus contemplata redire nuncium rem intellexit, ilico descendit ac ei iam regiam ingredienti obuiau. Puer uero negotium lepide peragit, mandata pandit, transmissa tradit, Militemque cum tunica armature iam affore predicit. Ad cuius nomen regina subridens dona suscipit, gracias agit et equos thalamo inductos ante lecticam regis Arturi adhuc quiescentis, utpote qui noctem totam insomniam laborando duxerat, statuit, sompnoque excito, "Domine," ait, "ne me commenti nota arguas, ecce anulus et aurei quos hodie mihi transmittendos nocte promisi. Insuper et hos duos dextrarios mihi destinauit, quos, eorum sessoribus illo fluuiolo obrutis, hac nocte predictus miles se conquisisse mandauit." Rex autem ^[Col. 2.] Arturus suos equos recognoscens pudore consternitur, id uidens propalatum quod haberi autumabat secretam.

¹ ms. falleris.

Egressus est demum Arturus ad nobilium colloquium, quos ad conuentum pro causis instantibus *ascitos*¹ ea die adesse iusserat. Cum quibus dum ante aulam sub umbra fraxini resedisset, ecce Miles cum tunica armature equitans ualuas ingreditur, cominusque in ipsius regis Arturi procedens aspectum eum cum considenti regina miliciaque salutat. Arturus uero non ignarus quis esset ei trucem uultum protendebat indignanciusque respondebat. Interrogat tamen unde ortus, quo tenderet, quidne illis regionibus quereretur. Ille autem se Romanum esse militem, et, quia eum ut Marte pressum audierat indigere milicia, sibi laturum aduenisse presidia simulque imperialia detulisse mandata. Thecam igitur signatam protulit apicesque regi porrexit. Arturus autem, litteris acceptis, seorsum a turba secessit recitarique iussit. Quorum testimoniis cum carte monimentis perceptis indiciorum, quoque pallio scilicet et anulo signis prolatis, ualde obstupefactus est, *quod*² omni desiderio uerum affectabat existere. Hoc ex ingenti leticia—eum uidelicet suum esse nepotem—nequiuit credere. Huiusque rei mansit incredulus, donec, eius utroque connotato parente, Loth rege Norguuegie Annaque regina, qui forte cum aliis ducibus iussi aduenerant, rei fidem diligenter [Fol. 37, col. 1.] ab eis discuteret et *indagaret*.³ Quibus id uerum fatentibus, eumque suum filium, [signis] cognitis, adhibito sacramento asserentibus, Arturus incredibili exhilaratur gaudio, uirum tam multimodis imperatoris fultum preconiiis tantarumque probitatum prelatum titulis sibi ex insperato tanta propinquitate coniunctum [esse]. Ex industria tamen nil ei inde propalandum censuit usquequo aliquid preclari penes se patrasset facinoris.

Ad conuentum ergo reuersus eumque ante omnes conuocans “Tuo” ait, “amice, in presenti presidio non egeo, in quo probitas an inercia magis uigeat prossus ignoro. Magna mihi sat militum exstat copia incomparabilis probitatis, robore et uirtute predita, inertemque et timidum probis et bellicosis ingerere eorum est animos a solita audacia et probitate uelle

¹ MS. ascitos.² MS. quodque.³ MS. indigaret.

eneruare. Tui similibus etiam absque stipendiis mihi permaximus sponte militat numerus, inter quos mea excellencia, nisi prius merueris, te [non ascribendum] nec etiam censendum existimat." Ad hec Miles cum tunica armature eius dictis exasperatus respondit: "Grauem repulsam et inopinatam iniuriam tibi famulari cupientem me a te contigit incurrere, qui quo[n]dam quandoque nec multis exoratus precibus nec magnis conductus opibus te dicioribus dignabar obsequendo assistere. Nec me non reperturum dubito cui seruiam, dum etiam, si tantum animum intendero, imparem leuiter [Col. 2.] inueniam. Verum, quia me huc adduxit affectus experiunde milicie et si hinc discessero timiditati ascribetur et inercie, tali condicione me tue milicie dignum censeas numero, si illud in quo tuus totus defecerit exercitus solus peregero." Arturus "Meum" ait "contestor imperium, si compleueris quod *pacisceris*,¹ te non solum eis ascribam uerum omnium amori proponam." Regi itaque ac ipsius uniuersis optimatibus sententia placuit eumque prelibata condicione penes se retinuit.

Non dies bis seni transierant et causa huiusmodi in expeditionem Arturum proficisci compulit. In aquilonari parte Britannie erat quoddam castellum, Puellarum *nuncupatum*,² cui tam decore quam generositate preclara et famosa iure dominii presidebat puella amicicie nexibus Arturo admodum copulata. Huius prestanti forma et pulcritudinis magnitudine quidam rex paganus captus et ab ea despectus ipsam in predicto oppido obsidebat, iamque compositis machinis, comportatis et erectis aggeribus, quasi eam expugnaturus et obtenturus imminabat. Cuius dum iuges incursus et cotidianos assultus illa perferre nequiuisset, misso nuncio, sibi suppecias Arturum aduocat, sese turri inclusam, exteriori uallo occupato, haud mora hostibus dedendam asserens, nisi cicius presidia conferat. Arturus autem eius discrimini³

¹ ms. *pacisseries*.

² ms. *nuncupatum*.

³ It seems necessary to assume the omission of one or more words after *discrimini*.

oppido [Fol. 37b, col. 1.] metuens uirtutem milicie confestim congregat instruit et ordinat, perfeccioneque parata, licet maxima constrictus formidine, quo ascitus fuerat iter arripuit. Multociens enim cum eodem rege commiserat et congressus fuerat, sed semper repulsum et deuictum eum constabat. Illi uero obsidionem petenti alius prepeti cursu occurrit nuncius, qui cum cesarie [super] genas dilaniatas municipium quidem expugnatum, illam autem captam intimat et abductam mandantemque sibi, ut quo amore eam dilexisset in prosperis tunc ostenderet in aduersis. Manubiis igitur honestos Arturus aduersarios insequitur, extrema eorum agmina, que inprouisa autumabat, furibundus aggreditur, sed malo ab illis omine acceptus est; de eius quippe aduentu predocti armati et ordinate incesserant, ualidiores ad munimen tocius exercitus posteriori in turma locauerant, qui subito impetu non facile perturbari poterant.

Ad tumultum igitur extremi agminis priores reuertuntur phalanges Arturumque ex omni circumdantes latere compri-munt impellunt et affligunt. Hic pugna acerrima commissa stragesque cruenta utrimque illata est ac Arturus medio hostium conspectus gremio ualde conterebatur anxiebatur et fatiscebatur, nique uiam gladiis aperiens fugam cicius maturasset, cum omni [Col. 2.] cesus pessumdaretur exercitu. Fuge itaque salutem commisit, sanius ducens saluus fugiendo euadere quam ultro se ingerendo periculum incurrere.

Belli autem exordio Miles cum tunica armature remoto et prerrupto loco secesserat, quis prelii exitus commilitones maneret contemplaturus. Quos ubi fuga lapsos comperit, Arturo cum prioribus fugienti obuiauit, atque ei subridendo insultans "Numquid" ait "O rex, ceruos an lepores agitis, qui sic passim dispersi per auia tenditis?" Cui Arturus indignatus respondit: "Hic tuam satis probitatem expertam habeo, qui, aliis pugnam adeuntibus, te memoris abdidisti latebris." Nec plura locutus aduersariis instantibus pertranssiit. Miles autem cum tunica armature, in eius singulos militum sibi obuiancium lepide et ridiculose cauillatus, insequentibus hosti-

bus occurrens eorum se catervis seuiens ingessit. Quorum confertos et constipatos cuneos ad instar hyberne procelle per medium penetrans neminem quidem lesit, nisi qui sibi fortuna resistantem obtulit. Vt autem regalem aciem intuitus est, calcaribus illico subductis cornipedem admisit, et, lancea uibrata, splendidum ferrum sub cauo pectore inopinus regi intorsit. Quo moribundo corrueute, puellam per lora corripit ac uia qua uenerat cicius regredi cepit.

Agmina autem que regem circumsteterant, suum dominum sui medio ^[Fol. 33, col. 1.] peremptum, confusa discedentem cum clamore persecuntur strictisque gladiis impetunt et inuadunt. Ipse in omnes et omnes in eum irruunt. Eminus alii in eum tela iaculantur, ceteri ancipiti mucronum acie eum sine intermissione contundunt, ut, sicut pluuię inundacio, sic ictuum in eum conflueret multitudo. Ille autem hos super illos *obtruncatos*¹ deserens suum semper iter agebat. Sed multum impediabatur, quia non tantummodo se sed etiam illam oportebat defendere. Non longe autem perampla et profunda distabat fouea, duarum prouinciarum terminos dirimens. Ideoque limes et diuisio illarum dicebatur finium, cuius angustus aditus et transitus non nisi unius admittebat ingressum. Ad hanc igitur Miles cum tunica armature accelerans et deueniens puellam intra fosse municionem tuto inmisit, precipiens se donec rediret in remota ibidem operiri. Iterum aduersariorum se usque insequencium ingerens cuneis repellebat fugabat dispergebat, ac more leonis catulis amissis infremens in eos crudeli strage seuiebat. Nullus eius impetum pertulit nec aliquis *quem*² grauis moles eius dextre attigisset indemnus abiuit. Quocumque se conuertebat, ac si a facie tempestatis, ab eo dilabebantur, quos iugiter ad exicium agens sine pietate trucidabat. Nec destitit, donec omnes in fugam conuersos, omnes ^[Col. 2.] pernicię traderet, dum pars eorum se ex preruptis rupibus precipites darent, pars obstantibus fluctibus se sponte inuoluerent et ipse superstites cede dilaniaret.

¹ MS. obtruncatos.² MS. quam.

Miles igitur cum tunica armature, absque sui detrimento habita uictoria, caput regis diademate insignitum abscidit, ipsius uexillo infixit ac in sullime erigens ad regem Arturum cum sua puella prope remeauit. Ouansque aulam ingressus qua rex Arturus super belli infortunio tristis et merens residebat "Quonam sunt" exclamat "O rex, tui famosi athlete, de quibus adeo iactabas neminem eorum parem uirtuti? Ecce *caput*¹ uiri quem cum omni suorum copia militum solus uici et prostrauit, a quo tot tuorum pugillum milia tociens proh! pudet fugari et eneruari. Tuumne adhuc me militem dignaris?" Recognoscens autem Arturus regis *caput*² sibi pre omnibus odiosi sibi que dilectam ab inimicorum manibus ereptam, letatus eius in amplexus irruit, atque "Reuera dignandus et optandus es miles" respondit "precipisque donandus honoribus. Verum quia adhuc pene incertum habemus quis nobis adueneris, enucleacius, rogo, insinua que tibi natalis tellus, a quibus originem trahas, et quo censearis nomine." Et ille: "Rei quidem habet ueritas, me Gallicanis in partibus Romano senatore progenitum, Rome [Fol. 38b, col. 1.] educatum, Miles cum tunica armature sortitum uocabulum." Arturus: "Plane falleris, fideque caret tua existimacio et te hac opinione prossus deceptum noueris." Miles: "Quid ergo?" Arturus: "Ostendam," *inquit*,³ "tibi tue propaginis seriem, cuius rei cognicio tui laboris erit remuneracio."

Vtroque igitur ipsius parente presente, Loth scilicet rege et Anna regina Norwegie, sibi ab imperatore directas litteras iubet afferri allatasque in aure multitudinis recitari. Quibus intelligentibus vniuersis perlectis, cum ingenti stupore incredibilis omnium mentibus innascitur leticia talique sobole beatos clamitabant parentes. Tunc rex Arturus eum hylari uultu intuens "Meum te" ait, "karissime, nepotem, huius mee sororis filium, cognoscito, quem talem edidisse non infamie sed maximo ascribendum est fortune beneficio." Subiunxitque: "In puerili quidem etate Puer sine Nomine, a tirocinio autem usque ad presens Miles es uocatus cum tunica arma-

¹ Ms. capud.² Ms. capud.³ Ms. inquit.

ture, iam a modo Waluuanius proprio censeberis notamine." Hec Arturo dicente, terque quaterque ab omni cetu "Waluuanius, nepos Arturi!" ingeminatum et inculcatum est. A patre igitur filio, ab auo nepote agnito, magnitudo gaudii *duplicatur*,¹ cum pro amissi recuperatore pignoris, tum pro ipsius incomparabili uirtute et fortitudine. Cetera que uirtutum Waluuanii secuntur ^[Col. 2.] insignia qui scire desiderat a sciente prece uel precio exigit, sciens quod sicut discriminosius est bellum inire quam bellum referre sic *operosius*² sit composito eloquencie stilo historiam exarare quam uulgari propalare sermone.

VI.

PARAPHRASE.

Uther Pendragon, King of Britain, and father of Arthur, had reduced the kings of all neighboring countries to a state of subjection and retained their sons as hostages at his court, where the young men, however, were given instruction in the discipline of arms and chivalry. Among the princes of subject nations, who were thus brought up at Uther's court, there was a nephew of Sichelinus, King of Norway, namely Loth, a young man of handsome person, equally remarkable for strength of mind and body. As he had succeeded beyond all his companions in winning the attachment of King Uther and his son, Arthur, he was received more familiarly than the rest into the intimacy of the royal household, including Anna, the beautiful daughter of the king. In the course of time Loth and the young princess fell in love with each other, but at first, from motives both of fear and modesty, they made no confession of the passion which they had mutually conceived. In the end, however, there followed a declaration of love and an intrigue which resulted in the pregnancy of the young princess. As the time of her lying-in drew near, she dissembled the true nature of her indisposition and with-

¹ MS. duplicatur.

² MS. operiosius.

drew to a secret chamber of the palace, admitting only a single servant to her confidence, and there in due time gave birth to a handsome boy. In the meanwhile she had taken the precaution, however, of arranging with certain rich merchants from abroad, that as soon as the child was born they should take it with them into their native country and there bring it up with all due care. Accordingly without the knowledge of any one the merchants received the child from its mother immediately after its birth, and along with it a great quantity of gold and [p. 391.]¹ silver and costly clothing. She gave them also a cloak, which was ornamented with precious stones, and a ring set with an emerald, which her father, the king, had entrusted to the keeping of the princess, being accustomed to wear it himself only on days of ceremony. To complete the means of future identification, she added to these articles a document sealed with the king's seal, which certified that the child was the offspring of the nephew of the king of Norway and of Arthur's sister, that he had been named Gawain by his mother, and that he had been sent into foreign parts on account of their fear of King Uther's wrath.

The merchants in due time embarked in their ship, taking with them their young charge, and, setting sail, on the eighth day they arrived off the shores of Gaul. They landed two miles from the city of Narbonne. Having accomplished this and trusting in the secrecy of the spot where they had come to land, the merchants left their ship in its place of harborage with only a boy to look after their possessions and the child in its cradle, and hurried away to amuse themselves in the city. But, as it happened, soon after their departure a certain fisherman from the country round-about, named Viamundus, a poor man but hitherto of honorable character, was walking along the beach, according to his daily wont, in search of fish cast up by the sea, by selling which he gained his livelihood. On observing the ship, which was drawn up there, the fisher-

¹ These bracketed numbers refer to the corresponding pages of the Latin text.

man at once abandoned his daily employment and hastened to it. He soon discovered that there was no one in charge of the beautiful child and the ship, with all its treasures, save the ship-boy, who had by this time fallen asleep. Again, as our author remarks, the proverb was verified that [p. 392.] it is the convenience of time and place which make the thief. Reflecting on his own poverty and the opportunity which he now saw of bringing it to an end, Viamundus succumbed to temptation and carried off whatever was most valuable among the articles of gold or silver, and other things which he found in the ship. Furthermore, he handed over the child and the case lying by his side (which contained the cloak, the ring, and the above-mentioned document) to his wife, and together, laden with riches, they hastened home without being observed by any one. The merchants soon afterwards returned to their ship, only to discover the misfortune which had befallen them. They were seized with consternation and grief, especially on account of the disappearance of the child who had been committed to their charge, but they finally despatched men throughout the surrounding region to trace out, if possible, the authors of this mischief. But it is hard, says the writer, to discover what no one has been an eye-witness of, so the messengers soon returned to the ship downcast after a vain search.

In the meanwhile Viamundus carried home his stolen wealth and hid it. Being childless himself, he brought up the boy with particular care as an adopted son. It was long, however, before he dared to make any open use of the property he had wrongfully acquired. At the end, however, of seven years, he decided to set out for Rome, to make that city his future home, since he thought that at so great a distance from the scene of his crime he might employ his ill-gotten wealth in any way he desired without fear of detection. Accordingly, in company with his wife and adopted son and all the other members of his household, he set out on his journey and soon reached the city of Rome. On his

arrival he took great pains to familiarize himself with the conditions of life in his new home, its citizens' mode of living, the names of its senators and chief men. At this time Rome was just recovering from the ravages of the barbarians. [p. 393.] A new emperor had succeeded to the throne, who was endeavoring to restore the city to its former prosperity after that period of desolation, bringing together its scattered citizens, redeeming captives and building up what had been destroyed. Viamundus observed these things, and, being of an astute mind, he determined to avail himself of his opportunity without delay. He accordingly fitted himself out with great splendor, obtaining from the neighboring towns as large a train of slaves as possible, and thus accompanied he set out for the palace, passing through the middle of the city and attracting the attention of all spectators by the richness of his display and the multitude of his attendants. When he finally came to the Emperor, he was honorably received. In the conversation which ensued, Viamundus represented himself as sprung from a noble Roman family, and as ruling over a certain part of Gaul. On the other hand, he averred, that hearing of the great disasters which had befallen the city of Rome, he had hastened thither and now begged the emperor to assign him a place of residence in the capital. The emperor, pleased with his venerable appearance, and influenced by his display of wealth, acceded to his request, and presented him with a superb residence, built of marble, which had formerly been in the possession of Scipio Africanus, and was situated at the very gates of the imperial palace. In addition, he made him a present of vineyards and other lands outside of the city, with which to maintain himself in state.

Viamundus, having thus obtained beyond his expectation the benefits of imperial favor, conducted himself so commendably that he soon won the admiration and attachment of all classes, whilst the story of his munificence spread far and wide throughout the city. Senators and nobles of Rome flocked daily to his house, and even youths and knights from

the imperial palace were drawn thither, [p. 394.] especially on account of his adopted son, the hero of the story, who was now growing up and emulating his supposed father in all the forms of excellence. For he was beautiful in appearance and of marvellous strength, and his virtues united with these attributes attracted to him the love of all men. But Viamundus fell gravely ill, whilst his adopted son was as yet only twelve years old, and, feeling his condition growing serious, he sent for the Emperor and Pope Sulpicius, and in anticipation of his death he begged that they would grant him a last interview. They yielded to the prayers of a person whom they so greatly loved, and both came to the dying man, accompanied by a train of nobles. On their arrival Viamundus returned thanks to them for the favors he had received, and, finally, calling them apart in secret, he revealed to them all the circumstances of his life, how he had come by his wealth, and how he had found the boy whom he had adopted as his son. Many times, he affirmed, had he determined in his conscience-stricken mind to disclose the secrets of his life, but to this day had always deferred it. Entreating their pardon that a man of his condition should request so great a favor from the masters of the world, he begged them to receive his son after his death and educate him for the order of knighthood. At the same time, he revealed to them the real descent of the boy, how he was the nephew of the famous King Arthur, who had by this time succeeded his father, Uther Pendragon. [p. 395.] He prayed, moreover, that the story should be kept secret from every one—even the boy himself—that not even his name should be disclosed until he was recognized by his parents, since this was prohibited, according to the terms of the document found with him, and, finally, that he should be sent back to these parents as soon as he had attained the age of manhood. He then summoned before him his adopted son, who had up to this time been called “the Boy without a Name,” and embracing the Emperor’s feet, commended the youth to his protection. He then had

the case brought, which contained the documents delivered to the merchants by Anna, and showed them to the Emperor. The latter received the boy into his arms and promised to carry out the desire of his dying friend. Viamundus, having thus achieved his wish, ended his life, and with the lamentations of every one, was buried in a pyramid of marvelous construction, in the midst of monuments of men of noble rank.

After the death of Viamundus, the Boy without a Name, by the Emperor's order, was brought to the palace and enrolled among the youths especially attached to the sovereign's person. At the end of three years—namely, in the fifteenth year of his age—having proved his capacity, he was fitted out with arms by the Emperor, and, together with twenty other youths, was made a knight. In the trials of strength and skill, which followed in the Roman circus, the adopted son of Viamundus won every prize. When conducted into the presence of the Emperor, [p. 396.] and permitted by the latter to demand any reward he might please, he replied that he desired no reward save the privilege of acting as champion on the next occasion of a single combat with any of the Emperor's enemies. The Emperor assented and enrolled him in the first rank of his knights.

On the first day that the young knight was received into the order, on his way to the above-mentioned trial of arms, he wore a purple tunic over his arms, which he called his surcoat. It had not been the custom hitherto for knights to wear surcoats over their armour in this fashion, so he was questioned by the other knights as to the meaning of this. He replied that he had put on this surcoat for the sake of ornament, whereupon the whole host cried out: "The new Knight of the Surcoat! the new Knight of the Surcoat!" and henceforth the name of the "Knight of the Surcoat" stuck to him. From this day on he grew in excellence of every kind, displaying his valor in each contest, and receiving higher and higher promotion at the hands of the Emperor.

Whilst these things were going on at Rome, a war arose between the king of the Persians and the Christians who inhabited Jerusalem. The day on which it was determined to give battle was at hand, and the forces were advancing against one another, when the wiser heads of either army secured an agreement for a temporary cessation of hostilities, and the appointment of delegates to discuss the conditions of peace. After a long debate it was [p. 397.] agreed by the representatives of the two armies that the questions in dispute should be decided by a single combat between chosen champions of the respective hosts. The Christians, however, being subjects of the Emperor, could not accede to this proposal without his consent, and were compelled to request an armistice until they should receive an answer from Rome. Representatives were accordingly despatched to the Emperor, who were also instructed to beg of him a suitable champion, in case he did not object to the above-mentioned terms agreed to with the enemy. The Emperor readily consented, but was still deliberating on the choice of a champion, when the affair came to the ears of the Knight of the Surcoat. Without delay the latter claimed the fulfillment of the promise made him by the Emperor on the day of his becoming knight. Although loth to part with so excellent a warrior, the Emperor yielded to his request—all the more readily, as he was anxious that the champion sent out should uphold the glory of the Roman arms. [p. 398.] He ordered him, then, to be well supplied with equipments of war, and besides had him accompanied by a troop of a hundred horse, commanded by a centurion. The company at once started on their journey, and going down to the Adriatic took ship there. They were joined by sixteen vessels bearing merchants and pilgrims to the Holy Land, who sought the protection of the knight and his company on account of the pirates infesting those seas, and they all set sail together. After having been tossed about at sea for twenty-five days, and finding themselves unable on account of the storms to make a port or to keep a straight course,

they put in at a certain island (in the Egean Sea, as is later said), inhabited by a barbarous people, immoderately addicted to gluttony and lust, and of so cruel a disposition that they spared neither sex nor age. Even merchants avoided the island, so that it remained, as it were, out of the world. The inhabitants of this island did not exceed three cubits in stature and rarely lived beyond fifty years of age. On the other hand, they rarely died under ten. Enjoying abundant food—nay, wealth even—and being accustomed moreover to hardships, the race was also remarkable for its fecundity.

Now, the rumor had gone forth among all pagan nations that an invincible champion had been despatched by the Emperor to defend the cause of the Christians in the impending duel. They accordingly sent word to their brother pagans of the barbarous isles in the Egean Sea, which the imperial expedition had to traverse, to be on their watch to destroy the Roman force, in case it attempted a landing on these islands, and they stationed pirates, moreover, here and there [p. 399.] to intercept the passage of this force. At that time the ruler over the island, where the expedition had put in, was an enemy of the Roman people, named Milocrates. He had carried off by force the niece of the Emperor, who was betrothed to the king of Illyria, and had taken possession of this island. On receiving news of the expedition he fortified the ports and towns along the seashore, with a view to harassing the Romans as they passed, or attacking them, if a landing was attempted. The shores, however, about the spot where the Roman ships touched land, were covered with forests, in which there were kept wild animals of certain fine species, reserved exclusively for the king and his nobles.

As soon as the centurion and his fleet reached the island, the hero of our story disembarked, and with a few companions went to hunt in the forest. He had already slain six stags, and had uncoupled his hounds in pursuit of a seventh, when the cry of the dogs and the sound of the horns were heard by a keeper of the forest. This man summoned the

rest of the keepers—for there were twenty of them—and taking their arms with them they all hurried together to discover who were the invaders of the forest. On coming up with these invaders, they asked the strangers by whose permission they were hunting in the royal preserves, where usually no one was even allowed to set foot, and furthermore summoned them to lay down their arms. The Knight of the Surcoat replied: “We have taken here what we need by the same authority that we came hither, and we shall only lay down our arms when we have buried them in your entrails.” At the same time he hurled a dart into the throat of the spokesman of the keepers. ^[p. 400.] On the Roman side many were without arms, which was not the case with their adversaries. In the general *melée* which ensued, as the Knight of the Surcoat saw his companions yielding, he rushed with drawn sword upon the leader of the keepers, struck him down, and seizing hold of the nose-piece of his helmet, dragged him over to the Romans’ side and there slew him, and stripped him of his armour. Then, himself clad in the armour of the slain keeper, he renewed the attack and alone killed thirteen of the enemy. In the end, only one man escaped to report the disaster. This survivor hid himself in the bushes until the Romans had retired, and then hastened to carry the news to King Milocrates, at that time sojourning in a city which he had founded, in a delightful spot, three miles inland. The king at once despatched messengers to summon the nobles of his country to assemble as soon as possible with all the forces they could bring together. This command they obeyed in such numbers that the city could not contain them all, and they were compelled to camp in the country round about, whilst Milocrates held a council of war.

In the meanwhile the Knight of the Surcoat returned to the ships to receive the congratulations of his comrades. On the third day from this they attempted to proceed on their voyage, but in consequence of unfavorable winds found it necessary to return to the spot they had left. The cen-

turion, in his turn, now held a council of war and set before the chief men of his host the dangers of their situation, how King Milocrates and his nobles were making ready [p. 401.] to avenge the death of the keepers, the insufficiency, moreover, of the Roman force to resist so great a multitude of enemies, and the inadequacy of their provisions. He recommended that spies should be sent out to report on what it might seem most advisable to do. As best fitted for this purpose, the Knight of the Surcoat and Odabal, a relative of the centurion, were selected. They armed themselves and set out through the forest to the city. At the very entrance of the woods they encountered a famous boar which our knight only slew after a desperate struggle. Having placed the carcass on his horse, he sent it back to the centurion by his squire, who again joined him before noon at the city gates. They then entered the city and went to the palace, mingling with the royal company there, as if a part of it, [p. 402.] and escaping detection through their knowledge of the language of the island. They wandered thus in every direction through the city and country round about and ascertained the strength of the enemy's troops already assembled, and also of those which were still expected. For King Milocrates had been greatly alarmed by false intelligence which his spies had brought him the day before as to the great multitude of the invaders, and had taken his measures accordingly. These men had been captured by the centurion and compelled by threats of death—to say nothing of the influence of bribes—to return to the king and render this report. Milocrates sent then for his brother, Buzafarnan, who ruled over a neighboring kingdom, to come to him as quickly and with as great a force as possible, and postponed action until his arrival. Now, on the very day that the hero of our story came to the city, it chanced that King Milocrates was holding a council of war with his nobles, in which it was agreed that on the arrival of Buzafarnan the army should be divided into two parts, and that the invaders should be attacked both

by sea and by land, so that they might have no room for escape. The Knight of the Surcoat mingled undetected with the rest at the council and took note of all that was said.

By the end of the council the sun had set and Milocrates hastened to his evening meal. The knight, still mingling with the king's followers, entered the palace, leaving his companions outside, and whilst the other inmates of the palace were at the feast, he penetrated, disguised and unsuspected, to the chamber of the king's unwilling consort, ^[p. 403.] where she passed her time exclusively in the company of her damsels. He began now to deliberate as to what he should do, all the time keeping on his guard against any unlucky turn of affairs. He hesitated to carry out his original purpose of slaying the king, for fear lest his own life might be endangered. On the other hand, he could not endure the shame of returning to his host with nothing accomplished. Whilst he was reflecting on what he should do, a soldier named Nab[a]or, one of those whom the king had lately sent as a spy to the Roman fleet, passed by bearing a message to the queen from her lord. As the knight was himself in the dark, he recognized Nabaor without being perceived in turn; for the latter had been one of the spies captured by the centurion, and during his captivity had formed so strong a friendship for the Knight of the Surcoat, that on being set free he had received from him a ring and a purple cloak as tokens of remembrance. Accordingly the knight, on recognizing his friend, called him and embraced him. He then informed him of the reason of his being there, and promised him rewards, if he should keep faith with him and aid him in the execution of his designs. Nabaor wondered at the presence of the knight in that place, but rejoiced at the opportunity afforded him of repaying the generosity of his friend. He took him to a more secret part of the palace and endeavored to dissuade him from his design on the king's life, telling him that thirty guards kept watch over the king whilst he was at the banquet, and prevented all access to him until the

dawn of day. [P. 404.] He explained, on the other hand, that the curiosity of the queen had been greatly aroused in regard to the knight by the reports that he had brought back from his captivity with the centurion, so that the queen was eager to see him and more concerned about his safety than about that of the king—for, although she had been treated by Milocrates with the honor which befitted her station, she could never forget that she had been snatched away by violence from her betrothed lover, and would have preferred freedom as a poor man's wife to the life of captivity, which she now led in the midst of all her splendor. From the time that she had heard of our knight as the champion chosen by the Emperor, on account of his unequalled valor, she had striven in every way to devise means of speaking with him, in the hope that through him she might be restored to her intended husband. He might, therefore, feel assured of her eager support in his attempt to overcome King Milocrates. In view, however, of the inconstancy of women, Nabaor advised, that he should be allowed to sound the queen once more before finally bringing the knight into her presence. He accordingly approached her and artfully introduced his name into their conversation with many praises. The queen soon expressed her regret that she could have no opportunity of putting her cause into the hands of so worthy a champion, feeling sure that, if this were possible, on her [P. 405.] father's account, if no other, he would find means of rescuing her. She spoke thus freely with Nabaor, because he was one of those whom Milocrates had enslaved like herself. Nabaor quickly assured her that, if such were her wish, the knight would be brought before her at once, and on her protesting the sincerity of her desire, introduced our hero into the room and explained to her the cause of his presence in the palace. On his entering the queen bade the handsome knight be seated, and after observing him carefully for a time she disclosed to him with tears and sighs all her troubles, adding that it was in his power to remedy them. The knight

replied that, notwithstanding his willingness to serve her, the superiority of Milocrates' forces could not be overlooked, and invited her to suggest some means by which this superiority might be overcome. As the queen remained silent for a time, Nabaor next ventured to speak. He proposed that they should take advantage of the great assemblage of troops and the occupation of the king to send word to the centurion to despatch secretly forty armed men ^[p. 406.] on the following day through the forest, who should take possession of the city with the queen's assistance. When they had effected this, they were to set fire to the city, so as to fill the king's army with consternation and his enemies at the same time with encouragement. The queen then implored the knight to carry out this plan, and presented him with the sword and arms of Milocrates, on which the charm rested, that whosoever first wore them besides the king would deprive the latter of his royal rank. She made him still other presents of gold and silver, and pledged him her friendship. After this the knight returned in haste to his comrades, who all the while had been awaiting him, and led them in the early dawn back to the centurion, to whom he now related all that had passed.

The centurion, greatly elated, selected the troops which were to be sent to the queen and placed Odabal in command of them. On the evening of the next day this band made its way to a vineyard near the royal palace, and, having been admitted there by Nabaor at the queen's command, they lay hid all that night. At the break of day on the morrow King Milocrates went forth to fight with the army of the centurion, at the same time ordering his brother with the fleet to attack him from behind. But the centurion saw through the plan and drew up his ships on shore round about the camp, so that in case of need they might be used as defences. The camp had been placed in a secure spot not far from the sea. The centurion then led out his forces in five divisions, he himself being at the head of the middle division, and advanced

directly against the king. The latter was accompanied by fifteen thousand men, but he already despaired of victory—for on going forth to battle he had asked for the arms with which not only his own fate, but that of his whole kingdom was linked, and they were nowhere to be found. [p. 407.] The unhappy Milocrates only discovered that they were in the possession of the Knight of the Surcoat when he saw him wearing them on the field of battle. He groaned at the sight of this, but did not turn back, as his good fame required that he should either conquer or die bravely.

The trumpet had already sounded and the troops of the two sides were about to close with one another in battle when a smoke rising up from the city directed attention thither. On the king's leaving the city, Odabal's band, which had lain in concealment, had come forth, taken possession of the city and set fire to its outskirts. As the fire extended, the destruction of the city became evident, and the sparks began to fly across the faces of the very combatants a great distance off. The heart of the king was filled with fear when he saw this disaster imminent, and, postponing the battle which he had begun, he hastened back to the rescue of the city. This was the signal for a mad rout, of which the Romans took advantage, pursuing and slaying their enemies in every direction. [p. 408.] Their comrades, moreover, who had set fire to the town, drove back from its walls the throngs of fugitives who endeavored to take refuge there, so that they were unable to escape their pursuers. King Milocrates' men, without a leader and thrown thus into confusion, suffered terrible slaughter on every side.

The king, however, on seeing himself surrounded by his enemies, made an effort at least to terminate his life in an honorable manner. He arranged his men in the form of a wedge, and, opposing the attack of the Romans, gained a temporary success. When the Knight of the Surcoat came up, Milocrates engaged him in a single combat, which was continued for a time with varying success, [p. 409.] but at

length the king fell by his adversary's sword and the rout of his troops was more complete than ever. The centurion, however, having put an end to all effective resistance, called off his men, and after collecting the spoils of his victory, made his triumphal entrance into the city. The queen came out to meet them and attended to the burial of the dead, whilst she also saw to the wounded and bestowed rewards on all the surviving troops.

The centurion tarried fifteen days in the island. He gave over the country to his soldiers for plunder and inflicted fitting punishment on nobles and people. He then left a part of his forces on the island, sent still another part to conduct the queen to her lawful husband, the King of Illyria, whilst he himself embarked with the rest and proceeded with the fulfilment of his mission. He had only been a day out at sea, however, [p. 410.] when he encountered the fleet commanded by Milocrates' brother,¹ which had been despatched to attack the Romans from behind. They had, indeed, gone to the place where they imagined the Roman ships were stationed, but they had failed to find them there—for the Romans had removed their vessels a little way up within the land to form a part of the fortification of their camp, as described above. Thinking that the Romans had fled, the king's brother put out to sea again, but, a great storm arising, he was tossed about for three days and finally driven off to countries five days distant from his destination. As the wind went down, he was endeavoring to effect his return, when he met the centurion's fleet in mid-sea.

Now it chanced that just at this time the centurion himself, with the Knight of the Surcoat at his side, was on the lookout in a tower in the stern of his vessel, and at first saw only the images of cocks and the like which, as is the custom, were attached to the masts to show which way the wind blew. As he saw these objects driven up and down in the breeze, the centurion, thinking they were storm-birds, called

¹ Here called Egesarius.

the pilot of the ship and warned him that rough weather was coming on, as the appearance of these birds was thought to portend a storm and disasters to seamen. But the Knight of the Surcoat, who was near by, understood that they were really images attached to the masts of vessels of the enemies' fleet and, ^[p. 411.] explaining the matter thus to the centurion, urged him to get ready their arms and be prepared.

Soon all the men in the centurion's ship were under arms, and the signal for preparation was given to the rest of the ships as well—for there were now thirty in all, since fifteen from the island recently subdued had been added to the original number. They were then arranged in the desired order of battle. The Romans placed in front five very formidable ships furnished with *rostra*, very much used among the pirates. The vessels not manned with soldiers were put behind the others, so that in case of defeat they might have a better chance of escape. When everything was ready and anchors cast, they awaited the approach of the enemy. The latter on their side made also a skilful division of their fleet. But the Knight of the Surcoat, as he saw them advancing prepared for battle, gave orders that his ships should raise their anchors and bear down as swiftly as possible on the enemy—^[p. 412.] especially on the vessel which bore the commander of their fleet. This vessel was desperately shattered in the first shock and the commander himself lost his life. A great part of the crew were also slain or drowned, and the rest were made captive, whilst the ship was robbed of its treasures and then sunk.

After the destruction of these men the knight engaged the remaining vessels. Though surrounded and outnumbered, he offered so fierce a resistance that the enemy now resorted to the terrible Greek fire, a long description of which in this place interrupts the story.¹ ^[p. 416.] The vessel in which the knight and the centurion were, caught fire, but the former

¹ This description, which is omitted in the Paraphrase, will be found, pp. 412–416.

sprang armed into the ship from which the fire had been cast, and succeeded in capturing it and transferring to it his own men. After this, having brought together the whole Roman fleet, he hastened to revenge himself on the remainder of the enemy's vessels, and in the end sank ten of them and carried off thirty.

When the naval battle was over, the Roman expedition proceeded on their journey to Jerusalem and arrived there safely by the appointed time. They were received with great delight by the Christians and were able to [p. 417.] rest after their toil and dangers. In the meanwhile the Christians brought together troops from every side. They, moreover, fortified their towns and supplied them with provisions, nor did they neglect to endeavor to secure the favor of heaven by prayers, fasting and alms.

On the day which had been set for the duel the champions of the Christians and Persians respectively appeared in the field, and the armies of both ranged themselves round about to witness the encounter. A huge warrior, named Gormundus, fierce and of long experience in war, defended the cause of the Persians. The duel took place on foot because there was no steed able to bear the heathen champion on account of his immense height. The antagonists then began the combat, which is described by the author with many rhetorical flourishes, but very little narrative detail. It lasted without result all that day and had to be renewed on the morrow. [p. 418.] The duel when thus renewed was even [p. 419.] fiercer than before and the issue was still doubtful at the close of the second day. So hard pressed was the Knight of the Surcoat, when they were separated, that the heathen host could hardly be restrained from a tumult on seeing their champion deprived of his advantage.

[p. 420.] In the combat of the second day the sword of the knight and the shield of Gormundus respectively had been broken and rendered useless. A violent dispute arose between the two hosts in regard to the third day's encounter, whether

new arms should be allowed to both the champions, or to one and not the other. [p. 421.] But, this matter having been arranged, the struggle was renewed for the third day. Our author compares this combat with that of the Lapithæ (and Centaurs), and the strokes of the antagonists to those of the Cyclops on their anvils. After it had raged for a long time, Gormundus, wearied out, was forced by his adversary outside of the circle within which, according to the agreement, the duel was to be fought. Then, in answer to the despairing cries of his countrymen, [p. 422.] Gormundus made a final stand, but was struck down, and a last thrust of his adversary's sword which pierced his breast—*non optabile stomacho antidotum*, as our author remarks—put an end to his life. The knight then cut off the head of the dead champion and spurned it with his foot, whilst the pagan host in their grief could hardly be restrained from throwing themselves upon the victor. As their champion, however, was dead, they were compelled to fulfill the terms of their agreement with the Christians and give pledges of their subjection to the Roman Emperor. The Knight of the Surcoat, on the other hand, received valuable presents from the nobility of Jerusalem, and, bearing with him his trophies, he returned in triumph to Rome and was welcomed there by the Emperor and Senate. The former assigned him a place among his especially chosen attendants and destined him to the highest honors at the first opportunity that presented itself.

[p. 423.] But our hero soon wearied of the peace which then reigned throughout the Roman Empire and looked about for some region where war might be prevailing, in order that he might find new opportunities for the exercise of his valor. Now, about this time the noble exploits of King Arthur—the uncle of our knight, who was, however, still ignorant of the relationship—became noised abroad throughout all the world and our hero accordingly determined to try his fortunes in Britain. The Emperor deeply regretted the departure of so admirable a warrior. He, nevertheless, gave his consent,

in part, because he wished the knight to become acquainted with his real descent, and, in part, because he hoped that through him Britain might some day again become annexed to the Roman Empire. He supplied him, therefore, with valuable presents, which were to be delivered to King Arthur, and among them the case containing the documents which told the story of the knight's birth. To these documents he attached his own seal as a guarantee that all the circumstances which they set forth were indisputable. He forbade the knight to look into the case until he had come to King Arthur. On the other hand, he sent word to the chief men of Gaul, through whose country he was to pass, to aid him and show him every honor.

The young knight took his departure from the court to the regret of all, crossed the Alps, traversed Gaul and arrived safely in Britain. On inquiring where he might find King Arthur, he learned that the latter was then in the city of Caerleon, in Demecia, which he preferred to all other cities—for the country there was covered with groves and abounded in beasts of chase, and was, moreover, rich and delightful on account of its green meadows, which were irrigated by the waters of the Usk and Severn. There, furthermore, was the seat of the Bishop of Demecia, there Arthur [p. 424.] was crowned and celebrated his great festivals, and there also he held the great assemblies of the chiefs of Britain. When he had ascertained where Arthur was to be found, he hastened onward, night and day, but six miles from his destination, near the town of Usk, he was arrested by a great storm of wind and rain, in which his companions either lost their way or were separated from him.

On the same night King Arthur and Gwendolen, his wife, were lying in bed together and talking of various things. The latter was the most beautiful of women, but she was, besides, well-skilled in magical arts, so that she was often able to tell beforehand things which were yet to happen. Amongst other things, whilst they were thus conversing, the

queen foretold to her husband that there was even then on the way to Caerleon a knight who would prove superior to the king himself in valor. He was clad in impenetrable armor, she said, and was riding on a steed which had not its equal for strength and beauty. As a proof of the truth of her clairvoyance she predicted that early on the morrow this knight would send her a golden ring and three bridle-bits with two horses. Arthur reflected that she was never mistaken in her predictions, but he determined to put the matter to the test without her knowledge. For frequently, as soon as he heard of the approach of some particularly brave knight, he would go out to meet him, in order to try his strength and skill in an encounter.

When the queen fell asleep again, a little later, King Arthur arose, and, having armed himself, mounted his steed and rode off without any companion, except his seneschal, Kay. He came upon the Knight of the Surcoat ^[p. 425.] standing by a swollen stream, where he had been vainly seeking a ford in the darkness. Arthur observed him by the gleaming of his armor and, calling loudly to him, demanded who he was—whether he was an exile, a robber or a spy. On the knight's replying to this offensive challenge that he was none of the three, expressing himself, however, at some length and in rather florid terms, Arthur taunted him with his loquacity and gave him the lie. He also summoned him to surrender his arms immediately. The knight rejected this proposal scornfully, and they then put spurs to their horses for the attack and encountered in mid-stream. Arthur was unhorsed and fell into the water, whilst the knight seized the reins of the riderless steed and led him away. Kay endeavored to avenge his master, but suffered the same fate, falling at the first blow on top of Arthur and losing his steed likewise. In the obscurity of the night they escaped any further harm—were compelled, however, to walk ignominiously home. When Arthur sought his bed again, Queen Gwendolen, noticing that he was all wet and stiff with cold, asked him where he had

been so long and the reason for his being wet. He replied, that having heard a quarrel in the court he had [p. 426.] gone out to stop it and had got wet in the rain. The queen rejoined: "Be it as you say, but to-morrow a messenger will tell us where you have been and what has really happened."

The knight in the meanwhile was ignorant as to who had been his opponents. He did not cross the stream, but turned aside to a place near by and lodged there for the night. In the early morning he went on to Caerleon. About two miles from the city he met a boy, and, on asking him in whose service he was, received the answer that he was charged with secret errands for the queen. The knight then bade him take the two horses which he had captured the night before and present them to the queen on his behalf as pledges of his friendship. He entrusted to the boy, moreover, as gifts for the queen, a golden ring and three golden bridle-bits, and, finally, giving the name by which he was known, declared that he would follow closely behind him. Queen Gwendolen, foreseeing what was to happen, stood on the top of a high tower looking over the road, which led to the town of Usk. When she saw her messenger come, leading the two horses, she knew what it meant, so she went down and met him as he was entering the palace. The boy executed all that had been enjoined him and announced that the Knight of the Surcoat was at hand. The queen smiled when she heard his name, but she accepted the gifts, returned thanks for them and led the horses into King Arthur's chamber before his couch, where he was still lying, as he had been tired out by his exertions of the preceding night. The queen awakened him and said: "My Lord, that you may not accuse me of falsehood, here are the rings and the bridle-bits which I foretold would be brought me—also, the two steeds which the knight I spoke of has sent, their riders having been unhorsed in the stream." The king recognized the horses and was covered with shame, as he perceived that the affair which he had wished to keep secret was known to the queen.

[p. 427.] After a while Arthur went out to a conference with his nobles which had been set for that day. Whilst he was before the palace, sitting under an ash, the Knight of the Surcoat came riding up to the gates and saluted the king and queen and knights around them. The king, recognizing his adversary of the night before, did not give him a very cordial greeting. Nevertheless, he inquired who he was, where he was going, and what object he had in that country. The newcomer replied that he was a Roman knight and that he had come to aid King Arthur, who he heard was in need of knights—finally, that he also brought messages from the emperor. He presented the case then and the seals to the king, who withdrew from the rest and had the letters read to him. The contents of the documents, together with the evidence of the ring and cloak, filled Arthur with amazement and he could hardly believe what he heard for joy. But it happened that Loth, King of Norway, and Queen Anna, the parents of the young knight, were present, and when questioned by Arthur they confessed that he was, indeed, their son. Arthur was filled with delight, yet he determined not to reveal the young man's origin to him until he had distinguished himself by some great action.

Arthur went back then to the meeting of nobles, and, having called up the young man before the whole assemblage, in slighting language rejected his offer to join the ranks of the royal knights, [p. 428.] on the ground that he had as yet no proof of his valor. The young knight was exasperated by the reply, but he feared lest it might be ascribed to cowardice, if he now turned back, so he again begged to be enrolled among Arthur's knights, this time on the condition that he should perform alone some action which the whole of King Arthur's host should have failed to perform. On this condition the king retained him.

Not twelve days after this Arthur was compelled to set out on an expedition into the North of Britain. There was a castle there, called Maidens' Castle, the mistress of

which was a damsel, famous for her generosity and possessions, who was also a friend of King Arthur's. A heathen king, who was taken with the beauty of this lady, but had been rejected by her, besieged her in her town and was now on the point of attempting to carry the castle by assault. As the damsel felt herself incapable of offering a long resistance, she sent in haste to Arthur for aid, [p. 429.] who at once assembled his forces, and, having got everything ready, set out to her rescue. He did this, however, with much trepidation, for in all previous engagements with the king against whom he was now marching, he had suffered defeat. Whilst he was on the way, still another messenger from the damsel hurried to meet him and informed him that the castle of his mistress had already been captured, and the damsel herself carried off into captivity. She implored Arthur, however, not to forget her in her adversity. Arthur then pursued the rear-guard of the enemy and attacked it, expecting to find it unprepared; but the best troops of the army had been selected to protect the retreat, and the attack was repulsed. In this encounter Arthur and his host came near destruction. He ultimately cut his way through the enemy, however, and took to flight, followed by his men.

In the beginning of the conflict the Knight of the Surcoat had contented himself with looking on from a high point some distance off, awaiting the result of the battle, but in the rout that followed, he met Arthur flying among the foremost, and smiling, the knight asked him insultingly whether he and his men were driving stags or hares, that they were hastening thus scattered through the by-ways. Arthur answered indignantly: "I have now sufficient proof of your valor, when I find you hiding in the forest whilst others are engaged in battle"—and without saying more, as his pursuers were pressing him, he passed on. The knight ridiculed the other fugitives in a similar manner, but [p. 430.] threw himself into the midst of the enemy's host, who were in pursuit. He swept through them like a winter-storm, only wounding,

however, those who opposed him. As soon as the knight came near to the king of the host, he put spurs to his horse, assailed the king violently and thrust his spear through his breast. He then caught the reins of the captive damsel's horse, and began to make his way back. The enemy, in turn, attacked him fiercely, and with all kinds of weapons, as he retreated, but he continued on his way, fighting all the while. Only he was much hampered in his retreat by the necessity of defending his companion, as well as himself. Not far distant, however, was a ditch which marked the limits of two different countries, and the passage left here was so narrow that only one could pass over at a time. When the knight reached this line he placed the damsel in safety beyond the ditch, bidding her wait there, whilst he returned to meet their pursuers. These he routed so utterly that many threw themselves headlong from high rocks, and others drowned themselves in the rivers.

[p. 431.] The knight then cut off the head of the king, which was crowned with a diadem, and fixing it on the end of his banner, which he held aloft, he returned to Arthur, the damsel accompanying him. As he entered the palace where Arthur was seated, in gloomy meditation over his defeat, he presented the head of the heathen king and boasted of his having alone overthrown a man who had put so many of Arthur's warriors to flight. Finally, he asked Arthur whether he was now worthy to be his knight. King Arthur, recognizing the head of the person who was of all men most hateful to him, and at the same time the damsel, whom he loved, delivered from captivity, replied that he was, indeed, a knight to be honored and rewarded. The king next made inquiry of the knight as to his origin, birth and name. When the latter answered that he was the son of a Roman senator in Gaul, that he was brought up at Rome and had always been called the Knight of the Surcoat, Arthur declared that he was mistaken and promised to enlighten him as to the truth in these matters.

He had the parents of the knight summoned—namely, Loth, King of Norway, and Anna, his wife—also, he had the letters brought which the Emperor sent, and they were read before the throng of people. The multitude were filled with joy at the disclosure of the real origin of the knight. King Arthur then made a public acknowledgment of his nephew, and proclaimed that he was [p. 432.] henceforth to be called by his true name, Gawain. When Arthur had said this, the people hailed him repeatedly, with the cry: “Gawain, the nephew of Arthur!”

The author concludes his story by recommending those who desire to know more of Gawain’s valorous deeds to seek some other informant—at the same time, with conscious pride in his own performance, reminding his readers that composing a story in a finished style of eloquence (*i. e.*, in Latin) is a very different matter from setting it forth simply in the vulgar tongue.

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